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A TOUR

IN

SWITZERLAND;

OR,

A VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE

OF THE

GOVERNMENTS AND MANNERS

OF THOSE

CANTONS:

WITH COMPARATIVE SKETCHES

OF

THE PRESENT STATE OF PARIS.

By *HELEN MARIA WILLIAMS.*

SECOND EDITION.

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A TOUR

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CONTENTS

OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAP. XXII.

Ascent to the Glaciers.—Mountain Prospects.—Hymn written among the Alps.

CHAP. XXIII.

Source of the Rhine.—Valley of the Rhine.—Splugen.—Valley of Schams.—Via Mala.

CHAP. XXIV.

Coire.—Sketch of Government in the Grisons.—Revolt of the Valteline.—Reunion to the Cisalpine Republic.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXV.

Griſon mode of negociating.—Deputation to Buonaparte.—Buonaparte.

CHAP. XXVI.

Baths of Pffyffer.—Sargans.—Wallenſtad.—Views of the Lake.—Journey over the Mountains.—Mountain Phenomena.

CHAP. XXVII.

Glaris.—Antient and modern Modes of human Traffic.—Democratical Government.—Deſcription of a popular Aſſembly.—Religious Toleration.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Lake of Zurich.—State of Literature.—Government.—Revolt againſt the Government.—Public Seminaries and Hoſpitals.—Religious Education.

CHAP.

CONTENTS.

CHAP. XXIX.

Return to Lucerne.—Stantz.—Visit to the Abbot of Engelberg.

CHAP. XXX.

Tell's Chapel.—Lake of Zug.—Zug.—Battle of Cappel.—Government of Lucerne.—Literary Societies.

CHAP. XXXI.

Cabinets of Natural History in Switzerland.—Plan of M. Meyer.—State of fine Arts at Paris.

CHAP. XXXII.

Autumnal Views on the Jura.—Soleure.—View of the Chain of Alps.—Bienne.—Neufchatel.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Excurſions round Neufchatel.—Morat.—Oſſuary.—Avenches.—Moudon.—Pays de Vaud.—View of the Lake and Mountains.—Lauſanne.—Geneva.

CHAP. XXXIV.

Vevay.—Chateau de Chillon.—St. Maurice.—Proſcription of French Newſpapers, and French Principles.—Torrent of Salenches.—Sion Government, and Deſpotiſm of the higher Vallais.—Revolt of the lower Vallais.—Miſerable Fate of the Inſurgents.

CHAP. XXXV.

Fribourg.—Romantic Situations.—Government, and tyranny of the Canton.—Revolt of the People.—Miſerable Fate of the Inſurgents.

CHAP. XXXVI.

Arrival at Berne.—Berne.—Government.—Mode of Election.—Authorities.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVII.

Reclamations of the Pays de Vaud.—Uſurpation and arbitrary Conduct of the Canton of Berne.—Diſcontent of the Nobles.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

State of the Peaſantry and Manufactures in the Canton of Berne.—Domeſtic Coalitions.—Arts of Government. Diſcontent of the People of the Pays de Vaud.—Celebration of the Anniverſary of the French Revolution.—Revolutionary Tribunals.

CHAP. XXXIX.

Trial of the Members of the Feſtival.—Condemnation of M. de La Harpe.—His ſubſequent Hiſtory.

CHAP. XL.

Diſcontents of the popular Party.—Reclamation of the Guarantee of the Privileges of the Pays de Vaud by France.—Hiſtory of that Treaty.—Griefs of Switzerland againſt the French Republic.—Griefs of the French

French Republic againſt Switzerland.—Remedies propoſed by the popular Party.—Reflections on the Progreſs of the French Revolution.

APPENDIX.

Obſervations on the Glacieres, and the Glaciers, by M. Ramond.

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SWITZERLAND;

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A VIEW OF THE PRESENT STATE, &c.

CHAPTER XXII.

Aſcent to the Glaciers.—Mountain-Proſpects.—Hymn written among the Alps.

FROM a little village ſituated at the foot of the Glaciers, and near the ſource of the Rhine, we departed early the next morning to ſcale the mountain that led us to that mighty ſtore-houſe of winter. Our road lay along the ſide of a torrent, part of which is applied to the purpoſe of turning the mill belonging to the hamlet, and watering the little enclоſures around it. A path-way had been

formed by the people acroſs the Glaciers, in order to communicate with the inhabitants of the upper part of the valley of Ragantz.

The mountain, like thoſe we had juſt left in the middle region, on the ſouthern ſide of St. Bernardin, produced a fine ſhort graſs; and the peaſants were ſpreading as we paſſed their ſcented harveſt, to the pleaſant, but fleeting ſun-beam, eager to improve the precarious bleſſing, and ſnatch the golden moments! Along a fine amphitheatre of mountains, we ſpied the inhabitants of the various cottages at this paſtoral employment, hanging on the ſteeps like goats, to turn the ſwath, and leaving us to wonder by what ingenuity the graſs was firſt mowed. Theſe *chalets*, or mountain cabins, are fitted for the region where they are placed, though of an order of architecture

of which Palladio gives no deſcription. They are in general built with the wood of the pine, or the larch, but when not in the neighbourhood of foreſts, are erected with ſtone. To moſt of the chalets the mountain itſelf affords one ſide ready conſtructed, as they are uſually placed in ſuch ſituations that when the avalanche rolls from the top, it ſhall find no reſiſtance from thoſe habitations, ſhielded by the friendly hill that riſes abrupt behind, but paſsing harmleſs over the ſheltered dwelling, fling at a ſafe diſtance its deſtructive maſs.

In the laſt of theſe chalets we ſtopped to repoſe ourſelves, though we had halted ſo often to botanize, as the hills abounded in a rich variety of herbs and delicate mountain-flowers, that we had hitherto ſuffered little from the labor of the aſcent; but our ramble, together with the

morning breeze of the mountains, had created no uſual appetite; and we ſat down to a repaſt of dried fruits, and coffee, before the door of the chalet, to prepare us for the remainder of our enterprize.

The aſcent to the Glaciers on the oppoſite ſide of the valley appeared ſo romantic, that we regretted for a moment that we had not taken a route, which ſeemed not only pleaſanter, but ſhorter; our mountain companions, however, ſilenced our murmurs by aſſuring us that every ſtep we took, though apparently leading us further from the oppoſite mountain, would at length bring us nearer. We had been ſo often deceived in our ideas of diſtances in the Alps, which it requires long uſage and a mountain-eye to calculate accurately, that we gave up our reaſon to the care of theſe

Griſons,

Grifons, perfuaded that fome mountain-miracle would be wrought in our favor.

The latter part of our journey was extreme toil; at fome diftance from the top, the mule which had hitherto carried me was left tied to a rock, and our guides fupported me up the rugged fteep; my fellow travellers, who were furnifhed with crampons, little machines buckled to the feet, with points to enable the wearer to keep his hold, purchafed their fecurity by excefsive fatigue from wearing them.

We were frequently overcome by the extreme heat, as well as by the difficulty of the path, and often ftopped to cool our fever at the torrent which we faw burfting above, from its icy fource. No inconvenience, we were told, refulted from taking this cooling draught; though far from being convinced of the truth of this

assertion, we were glad to find an excuse in the example of our Grison companions, for quaffing this delicious beverage; and, like our first parent, "when not deceiv'd, but fondly overcome," he tasted "of that fair, enticing fruit," so we, against our better knowledge, scrupled not to drink large libations of this tempting nectarious water.

With an inexpressible sensation of fatigue like the giddiness of delirium, breathless, and burning with heat, we threw ourselves, some time after mid-day, on the grass, along the icy boundary, from whose base rushed the torrent whence we gathered the icicles that again slackened our excessive thirst. These feelings of parched heat were not the effects of fatigue; we had taken as violent exercise beneath the hot noon-tide rays in the Italian vallies, with less feverish

feverish sensations than we now experienced in those regions of winter. After a slight interval of repose, however, we found ourselves restored to that feeling of serene, tranquil delight, for which the philosophers who have written on the theory of the Higher Alps, account, from the purity of the atmosphere at that immense elevation; and which state of soothing happiness Rousseau has described with his usual eloquence, in a letter to Julia*.

While

* The general impression felt by those who scale the higher mountains, where the air is pure and subtile, is a greater easiness in breathing, more lightness in the body, and more serenity in the mind.—Meditation assumes, in those regions, something of a character great, and sublime, proportioned to the objects which strike us; something of tranquil rapture, remote from all that is selfish, or sensual. It seems as if, while raised above the haunts of men, we leave below all mean and earthly sentiments, and that, as we approach the etherial regions, the soul contracts some-

While my fellow travellers amuſed themſelves by wandering over that world of ice, a difficult and dangerous enterprize, I ſat down on the border of the Glacier, to enjoy the new and magnificent viſion around me. On the right, rocks and mountains of ice, aroſe in dread and ſublime perſpective; before me, St. Bernardin lifted its barren and uncovered top; and nearly in the ſame direction, the eye wanders over a chain of Glaciers which ſeparates the valley of the Rhine from the ſubject countries of the Griſons, Bormeo, and the Valteline. Theſe were the Glaciers which, mid-way, we regretted not having ſcaled, and which our guides told us we ſhould reach ſooner

thing of their unchangeable purity. Upon the whole this ſpectacle has ſomething in it of magic and ſupernatural, which overwhelms the mind and ſenſes; we forget every thing, we forget ourſelves, and have ſcarcely a conſciouſneſs of exiſtence.

in the direction we had already taken. So far as we might truſt to the teſtimony of our ſenſes, they were not miſtaken. Theſe Glaciers appeared to touch that on which we were now placed; and it ſeemed as if we had only to deſcend a little from our preſent elevation, in order to climb the ſavage and naked pyramids of rocks which raiſed themſelves up from the far ſpread deſert of ice, like barren iſlands from a troubled ſea. We were, however, ſeparated from thoſe objects by a ſpace of ſeveral miles, meaſured on the ground; but the intervening gulph was hid from our ſight by the ſwell of the mountains. On the left, the eye was borne over the amphitheatre of hills, green with paſturage, up to the ridge of ice, ſtretching along its own ſullen, and perhaps incroaching boundary. The cattle were cropping the herbage on the ſteep, and the chamois bounding over the rocks,

for

for ſuch the Griſon-peaſant told me were a few playful animals I perceived at a great diſtance at the edge of the Glacier, over which my fellow-travellers were wandering. I employed the hours of meditation in throwing together the new images with which the Alpine ſcenery had filled my mind, into the form of an hymn, to the author of nature; and no ſpot can ſurely be more congenial to devotional feelings, than that theatre where the divinity has diſplayed the moſt ſtupendous of his earthly works.

The lengthening ſhadow of the icy-wall at the foot of which I was ſitting, drew me from my meditations, and I began to be ſeriouſly alarmed at the abſence of my friends. The oppoſite Glaciers were now lighted up with that glowing roſe-coloured hue, with

which

which they are tinged at parting day. I gazed with rapture on this glorious viſion, which I had before ſeen at an immenſe diſtance, and with feeble impreſsions compared to the enthuſiaſtic, the ſolemn emotion I now experienced. The clouds were rolling high above the valley, but remotely beneath the ſpot where I ſtood, in gorgeouſly coloured billows, as their upper ſurfaces were tinged by the laſt rays of the ſun.

While I was contemplating theſe majeſtic images, my fellow travellers hailed us from a diſtant part of the mountain, to which they had deſcended from the Glacier. There was no time left to liſten to their

" Travels hiſtory,
Of Anters vaſt, and deſerts idle,
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills, whoſe heads touch heaven,"

all which I ſhould have been very ſeriouſly inclined to hear, if our guides had not reminded us, that though the tops of the mountains where we ſtood were ſtill rejoicing in the light of day, darkneſs already brooded over the face of the vallies.

The vapours gathered thicker as the evening advanced; and from the brow of the firſt ſlope where we deſcended, we pauſed a moment to ſnatch a nearer view of the tumultuous ſwelling tide of clouds into which we were about to plunge, rolling in ſilent but awful diſcordance along the valley, between the majeſtic ſtreights of the Glaciers.

We had ſcarcely gained the ſpot where we left our mule, before the ſun had taken his laſt leave of the pointed rocks on the oppoſite Glacier,

and night ſeemed riſing from the valley. We found the bridle in the place where we had tied it to the rock, but the mule, in whoſe reputation for patience we had placed too much confidence, or who had formed a better judgment of the fit hour of retreat than ourſelves, had withdrawn his head, and abſconded. I had rather been borne, than ſupported to this ſpot, between two of our guides; a mode of conveyance which was both diſagreeable and inconvenient. To walk down to the valley was for me impoſsible, to look for the mule along the mountains would have been a vain attempt, and to have fought another from below, would have delayed our return 'till midnight. In this perplexity, one of our Griſon-guides, who had rambled a few paces in ſearch of the animal, returned with his arms full of ſhrubs, which he placed in two

leathern

leathern girdles faſtened to the long poles that are the walking ſticks of the Glaciers, and tied them together, ſo as to form a ſort of chair, or litter; on this I placed myſelf, not without ſome apprehenſion, but was carried in perfect ſafety down to the cottage where we had breakfaſted in the morning, and where we found our mule, who had been caught marching homewards early in the evening, and detained by the cottagers till our return.

The hours till midnight were filled up by my fellow-travellers, with accounts of their wonderful viſions. I made a number of notes of what I had myſelf ſeen and heard of the Glaciers; but after reading the glowing deſcription given of thoſe ſtupendous phœnomena, by Mr. Ramond, in his elegant tranſlation of Mr. Coxe's firſt

edition

edition of his travels, I determined, inſtead of preſumptuouſly intruding my own imperfect obſervations, or intelligence, to ſeize this occaſion of introducing that finiſhed eſſay to the Engliſh reader*. Leaving to this charming writer the taſk of philoſophical diſcuſſion, I ſhall here tranſcribe the hymn I compoſed on thoſe Alpine ſummits; conſcious how feebly it paints their ſublime imagery, and perſuaded no pen can define thoſe ſenſations which are felt by the lover of nature, who wanders amidſt thoſe regions of ſtupendous greatneſs, and feels, mingled with the thrill of aſtoniſhment, the tranſport of adoration.

* For Mr. Ramond's obſervations on the Glaciers, and Glacieres, ſee the Appendix.

A HYMN

A HYMN written among the ALPS.

Creation's God! with thought elate,
Thy hand divine I ſee;
Impreſſed on ſcenes where all is great,
Where all is full of thee!;

II.

Where ſtern the Alpine mountains raiſe
Their heads of maſſive ſnow;
Whence, on the rolling ſtorm I gaze,
That hangs——how far below!;

III.

Where, on ſome bold ſtupendous height,
The eagle ſits alone;
Or ſoaring wings his ſullen flight
To haunts yet more his own;

IV.

Where the ſharp rock the chamois treads,
Or ſlippery ſummit ſcales;
Or where the whitening ſnow-bird ſpreads
Her plumes to icy gales;

V.

Where the rude cliff's ſteep column glows
With morning's tint of blue;
Or evening on the Glacier throws
The roſe's bluſhing hue;

VI.

VI.

Or where by twilight's ſofter light,
The mountain ſhadow bends;
And ſudden caſts a partial night,
As black its form deſcends;

VII.

Where the full ray of noon, alone
Down the deep valley falls;
Or, where the ſun-beam never ſhone,
Between its rifted walls;

VIII.

Where cloudleſs regions calm the ſoul,
Bid mortal cares be ſtill;
Can paſſion's wayward wiſh controul,
And rectify the will;

IX.

Where midſt ſome vaſt expanſe, the mind
Which ſwelling virtue fires,
Forgets that earth it leaves behind,
And to its heaven aſpires;

X.

Where far along the deſart-ſphere
Reſounds no creature's call;
And undiſturbing mortal ear,
The Avalanches fall;

XI.

Where, ruſhing from their ſnowy ſource,
The daring torrents urge
Their loud-toned waters headlong courſe,
And lift their feathered ſurge;

XII.

Where ſwift the lines of light, and ſhade,
Flit o'er the lucid lake,
Or the ſhrill winds its breaſt invade,
And its green billows wake;

XIII.

Where on the ſlope, with ſpeckled dye,
The pigmy herds I ſcan,
Or ſoothed the ſcattered *chalets* ſpy,
The laſt abodes of man;

XIV.

Or, where the flocks refuſe to paſs,
And the lone peaſant mows,
Fixed on his knees, the pendant graſs,
Which down the ſteep he throws;

XV.

Or where the dangerous pathway leads
High o'er the gulph profound;
From whence the ſhrinking eye recedes,
Nor finds repoſe around;

XVI.

XVI.

Where red the mountain-aſh reclines
Along the clefted rock;
Where firm, the dark unbending pines
The howling tempeſts mock;

XVII.

Where, level with the ice-ribb'd bound,
The yellow harveſts glow;
Or vales with purple vines are crown'd
Beneath impending ſnow;

XVIII.

Where the rich minerals catch the ray
With varying luſtre bright,
And glittering fragments ſtrew the way,
With ſparks of liquid light;

XIX.

Or, where the moſs forbears to creep,
Where loftier ſummits rear
Their untrod ſnows, and frozen ſleep
Locks all th' uncolour'd year;

XX.

In every ſcene, where every hour
Sheds ſome terrific grace,
In nature's vaſt, overwhelming power,
THEE, THEE, my GOD, I trace!

CHAP. XXIII.

Source of the Rhine.—Valley of the Rhine—Splugen.—Valley of Schams.—Via Mala.

BEFORE we bid adieu to the Alpine regions, we went up the valley to viſit the ſpot from whence the Rhine draws its firſt and principal ſource, at the foot of the Glacier which we had viſited the preceding day, but ſome miles nearer the maſs of mountains of which that Glacier is a branch. There are three ſources to this celebrated river; one, called the Lower Rhine, riſes from that part of the mountain of St. Gothard which ſtretches behind the valley of Urſeren, and flows along the Griſon valley of Tavelſch: the middle ſource ſprings from the weſtern extremity of the Glacier of the Vogelsberg, and flowing through the valley of Medels, joins the former, at the diſtance

of

of ſome leagues, near the Abbey of Diſentis; the Higher Rhine, which is ſaid to have been the only branch known to the Antients, proceeding from the maſs of mountains formerly called the Adula, runs from the eaſtern extremity of the Vogelſberg, or Bird-mountain, below the point called the Moſchelhorn; and there, it is ſaid, was built a temple, conſecrated to the guardian god of the ſtream, whoſe tranquil ſlumbers Boileau deſcribes in one of his epiſtles;

" Au pièd du Mont Adule, entre mille roſeaux,
" Le Rhin, tranquille et fier du progrès de ſes eaux,
" Appuyé d'une main ſur ſon urne penchante,
" Dormoit au bruit de ſon onde naïſſante."

Whether Boileau took part of his deſcription from the ſtatue of this river-god in the Tuilleries, or, what is more probable, the Sculptor borrowed the idea of his ſtatue from the Poet, the place itſelf is not unworthy of the divinity.

We were now at the ſource of that river whoſe gentle current had hereto-fore glided from its tranquil and ſolitary abode, to witneſs the ſcenes of carnage with which the ambition of monarchs has ſo often crimſoned its waters, but which then heard the ſongs of republi-can triumph, reſounding along its diſ-tant banks. Happily theſe banks re-echo no longer the din of war, or the ſhout of victory; the thunder of the confede-rated powers on the continent of Europe, againſt the liberties of France, is huſhed; and the fate of this confederacy, like that of Roman greatneſs, ſo elegantly deſcribed by Monteſquieu, may be com-pared to the courſe of this river, which, ſwollen by auxiliary ſtreams to a tre-mendous flood, ſinks at length, a ſedgy rivulet, into the boundleſs ocean.—Alas! ſo long has the iron ſtorm of war raged around us, that the ear is become fami-

liarized

liarized to its ſounds, and the heart is grown callous to its deſolation! While the reſt of Europe is ſafely ſheltered from its fury, why are two nations, formed for mutual eſteem and admiration, ſtill fated to brave its horrors, and remain the only votaries at its unhallowed ſhrine? Ah, when will Peace, with all her meek-eyed beamy train, with all her bleſſed attributes, reviſit the earth, and begin, once more, her holy, her univerſal empire!

The valley of the Rhine, which is ten miles in length, from the foot of St. Bernardin to Splugen, is too lofty for any other cultivation than that of paſturage; on one ſide the rocks hung over the river clothed with woods; on the other, the hills roſe in ſucceſsive lawns to the Glaciers; and no ſcenes amidſt the mountains we had traverſed had preſented a ſeries of objects more mildly pictureſque.

At Splugen this character of ſoft and placid beauty changes again to the wild and the majeſtic. This town is the principal depôt of merchandize that paſſes from Germany, and the Griſons, into Italy; and is the place where the roads divide that lead to the Valteline, and the Swiſs Italian Bailliwicks.

At a little diſtance from Splugen, the piny foreſts which cover the mountains along the ſhadowy way, and climb up the lofty ſteeps, dark, wild, and impenetrable, are half-leafleſs, and withered on the higheſt peaks; as if vegetation had been worſted in ſtruggling with nature for exiſtence. Here the Rhine, which had hitherto rolled ſometimes a placid, and always an even current, begins firſt to diſplay its bold and daring character; its waters now fall in one broad expanſe over the ledge of rocks that croſs the

ſtream, down into the gulph; then, rebounding from the abyſs, glide ſwift as light through the ſtreights of granite that open to admit their paſſage, or, where the rocks oppoſe their way, lift high their feathery ſurges, of which the great maſs fall foaming into the depths beneath, and the reſt are loſt in air.

As we deſcended the mountains into the valley of Schams, the ſavage perſpective of the foreſts ſoftened into graceful ſcenery. Trees of milder climes diverſify the proſpect, among which the mountain-aſh reddens the rocks, over which it throws its beautiful cluſters of berries in laviſh profuſion. The valley of Schams, along which the Rhine winds a ſlow and gentle ſtream, amidſt a number of ſcattered villages and hamlets, abodes of tranquil exiſtence, preſents a ſoft reposing landſcape, peculiarly ſoothing to

the

the traveller, among the Alps, and which unfolds itſelf from the midway of a ſolitary mountain, with its wild accompanyment of the daſhing torrent.

At one of thoſe villages where we paſſed a day, we conſidered ourſelves as fortunate in finding a perſon by whom we were underſtood; ſince the language of this country is not Italian, like that of the Valley of the Rhine, but a compoſition of all the languages under heaven; as if the emigrants from the tower of Babel had formed their chief colony in this pleaſant ſpot, and in proceſs of time had amalgamated the confuſion of tongues into the jargon called the Romanſh. In this wild and uncouth aſſemblage of words ſeveral books are written; among which we found, in the library of the good old landlady of a village-inn, an huge ſilver-claſped, and ſtrongly braſs-bound Bible,

printed

printed in this dialect, and dedicated to George the Firſt. We were alſo ſhewn a volume of hymns, ſome of which were tranſlated to me, and were not unpleaſing ſpecimens of mountain-poetry, applied to Alpine images and objects; chiefly thoſe of the vegetable, and flowery world, ſuch as the mountain-aſh, the myrtle, the harebell, and the ſheltering pine.

The inhabitants of this valley, and of that of the Rhine, are Proteſtants. In the middle of the fifteenth century they were under the dominions of Nobles, and Biſhops, of whom they purchaſed their freedom, and have ſince made a part of the Griſon government.

In this valley we were nearly on a level with the reſt of the world; but in order to eſcape entirely from this wilderneſs of Alps, we had another mountain

expe-

expedition to make, which, if we had judged from the name it bears, was more perilous than all the paſt. Why the inhabitants of this country have given the name of Via Mala to the beſt road among the mountains of Switzerland, it is ſomewhat difficult to conjecture; perhaps indeed it might once have deſerved this epithet, and, like other bad reputations, is ſtill ſuſpected, though its character is reformed. We believed that we had already, during our Alpine journey, exhauſted every poſsible aſpect of mountain ſcenery, and that what remained, however pregnant with the varying images of beauty, or the rugged forms of horror, could offer only the repetition of preceding wonders; we found, however, as we journeyed along the Via Mala, new reaſons to pauſe, and new objects to admire.

After

After croſsing the Rhine, which we rejoined at our entrance on this road, we loſt at once all view of the fair and ample valley, and found ourſelves immured between pine-covered rocks of enormous height, while, in proportion to their perpendicular and ſtupendous elevation, the river deſcends into gulphs equally profound. Between theſe tremendous precipices an excellent road is formed along the ſide of the mountain, which we paſſed in ſuch perfect ſecurity as left us full leiſure to contemplate thoſe mighty cliffs above,

....."Whoſe higheſt woods, impenetrable
"To ſtar, or ſun-light, ſpread their umbrage broad
"And brown as evening;"

MILTON.

while we liſtened to the roarings of the ingulphed waters riſing troublous from the chaſm in which the river had made its channel. After proceeding two or three

miles

miles along theſe precipices, we caught a glimpſe of a bridge which hung light in air over the abyſs, and ſeemed more to deſerve the reputation of having been reared by ſupernatural agency than any on which we had yet gazed.

We pauſed a conſiderable time on this bridge, that we might fix the ſcene in our remembrance; on that ſide of the mountain along which the road we had paſſed was ſuſpended, roſe a majeſtic ſwell of pine-covered ſteeps; on the ſide where we now croſſed, the rock ſtood abruptly perpendicular, leaving juſt ſpace enough for the paſſage, part of which was excavated from the cliff that impended beyond our darkened path, over the gulph. The Rhine, which had hitherto rolled its ample volume, increaſed by torrents, and by the ſix rivers from which the valley it had left takes its

Roman

Roman name, now ſhrunk on the eye from the diſtance at which we gazed, into a ſmall rivulet, labouring at the depth of many hundred feet beneath the bridge, foaming dark between the narrow clefts, ſometimes ſtruggling with the rocks for day, and ſometimes entirely hid by their foldings from our view.

After paſsing ſome hours of contemplation amidſt theſe ſcenes, where luxuriant vegetation ſpreads her flowing veil over the ſtern brow of terrific wildneſs, we bade adieu to the withdrawing Rhine, which, after mounting a hill that brought us to a village on its ſummit, we again beheld in the diſtance, transformed into a placid expanſive river. Deſcending into the valley, we reached Tuſis, the capital of one of the high juriſdictions of the Griſon-League. This town, according to the etymologiſts, was originally Tuſcan,

which they prove in a very ſatisfactory manner, from the name Tuſis, Tuſan, with fifty more derivations, till they arrive at Tuſcana.

The road from Tuſis to Coire lies along a finely cultivated plain, with a ſoft boundary of ſloping hills, clothed with freſh verdure, and woods of thick foliage, and ſcattered over with villages, and country ſeats; the Rhine glides tranquilly along the valley, and far above its paſtoral banks, Glaciers, mingling with clouds, form a diſtant horizon. There was ſomething deliciouſly ſoothing in this ſtill, quiet landſcape, contraſted with the ſavage chaos of Alpine ſcenery; it was like reading Thompſon's Autumn, or Gray's Elegy, after Milton's battle of the Angels.

We paſſed the beautiful and pictureſque mountain of Heigenberg, which ſtretches

ſix miles along the plain, is well peopled with villages, and eſteemed the moſt fertile ſpot in the Griſon dominions.

At Rechinau, the reſidence of the Imperial Envoy to the Griſons, the two ſtreams of the Rhine form their junction; and they could not have choſen throughout the country a ſpot more delightful for the friendly meeting that was now to laſt the remainder of their courſe. The principal branch was that which we had accompanied from its ſpring; the other flows along the valley of Sopra Silvas, or the valley above the woods, which is the moſt populous part of the Griſon-League of which Flantz is the principal town, and the place where the General Diet of the three Leagues aſſembles every three years. This valley is divided from the Canton of Glarus by high mountains and Glaciers, which form, as uſual, a

magnificent back-ground to the paſtoral country beneath, and is ſeparated at its cloſe, by a part of St. Gothard, from the valley of Urſcren. Over the two branches of the Rhine, juſt above the confluence of their ſtreams, two bridges are built on the ſame plan as that of Schaffhauſen. Theſe bridges, we were told, are much admired for their architecture, and what is termed a ſublime ſimplicity of conſtruction; they may perhaps deſerve praiſe on account of their ſtability; but ſurely nothing can be more offenſive to the eye than thoſe huge maſſes, covered with wood, heavy, and miſhapen from without; diſmal, and dark within; ſuch, in my ignorance of mechanics, appeared to me thoſe bridges which are erected over the rivers of Switzerland in the flat county; and the only architecture of that kind which I thought admirable, were the performances of the

Devil

Devil over the abyſſes of St. Gothard, and the tremendous chaſms of the Via Mala.

The Rhine at its confluence, becomes an important river, and flows through the valley with calm majeſtic pace, under rocks and wooded hills, which in other countries would be reſpectable mountains, but which ſhrink into inſignificance before the eye that has long been fixed on the gigantic Alps. We paſſed ſome miles through a piny foreſt, and at length, from the paſtoral valley of Rechinau, beheld the antique towers of Coire, riſing majeſtically from the deep boſom of encircling mountains.

CHAP. XXIV.

Coire.—Sketch of Government in the Griſons.—Revolt of the Valteline.—Reunion to the Ciſalpine Republic.

THE national convention of the Griſons had ſuſpended their ſittings two or three weeks before our arrival at Coire. As revolutions were abroad in the earth, it was not extraordinary that ſome efforts were made to reform an oppreſsive government, when the means being completely in the power of the oppreſſed, the execution was neither difficult or dangerous. The changes that had taken place, however, we were informed by ſome perſons at Coire, did not merit the name of a revolution; that what had paſſed was little more than a ſtruggle for power, and that the only ſervice rendered to the country, was the

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correction of a few avaricious individuals of credit and influence, by fines and forfeits, without any reformation of the principles on which they had acted, and in which it was probable they would be imitated by their ſucceſſors.

The government of this country is democratic, that is a Swiſs democracy, where, under the name of liberty, the greateſt outrages are committed againſt the principle. How, or when the Griſons firſt ſhook off the yoke of their former governors, is not well known; but the union of the three leagues, of which the Griſon government is compoſed, took place in the beginning of the ſixteenth century. The point of contact between the thouſand and one republics of this country, for every community is a ſeparate ſtate, and has a different form of government, is a general diet of their

chiefs, held once a year in the capital of one of the three leagues; which diet is formed of ſixty-three deputies, ſent from the various communities in proportion to their extent or influence.

A disjointed government like this, muſt neceſſarily be ſubject to the influence of political intrigue. The deputy named to the diet by a ſovereign peaſant of fourteen years of age, or in the direct and unqualified manner in which he is elected by the ſovereign fathers, is moſt commonly either a noiſy intriguer, whoſe pretenſions have abaſhed the man of modeſt merit, or what is more likely to happen, the wealthy Lord who has corrupted his conſtituents; bribing being a practice univerſally admitted amongſt the rights of the people in Swiſs democracies.

Thus

Thus by intrigue and corruption theſe democracies become not ariſtocracies, compoſed of citizens ſkilled in legiſlation, and endowed with principles that tend to the amelioration of ſociety, but oligarchies framed of individuals who conſider the rights of the people as their own privileges, and who encourage thoſe vices in the community by which they increaſe their revenues, inſtead of checking them by wiſe regulations, and ſalutary laws.

Theſe evils would probably have been longer borne without remonſtrance, had not the imprudent exceſs of avarice in the governors at length awakened the reſentment of the plundered. In former times, the cupidity of the magiſtrate had been checked by the fear of the ſummary puniſhment of the Strafgericht, a kind of ſtar-chamber, where not only

the guilt of the rich man was ſure to meet with expiation, but where even wealthy innocence was inſecure; ſince the Radamanthus of this inexorable tribunal were ſharers in the arbitrary penalties they impoſed.

The aſcendency of the opulent citizens in the affairs of government has long ſince brought this tribunal into diſuſe. It was, indeed, often made the inſtrument of private hatred, and factious vengeance; but as it was alſo a terror to evil doers, anſwered ſome of the purpoſes for which it was intended. Since its abolition, ſays a writer on this ſubject, "the chiefs make treaties with foreign powers without the conſent of their conſtituents, and ſell juſtice by auction, and ruin thoſe whom they ſuſpect to have intereſts hoſtile to their own." This accuſation was

made

made againſt the fathers of the laſt generation, and it is to be lamented, that their ſons not having the fear of the ſtar-chamber before their eyes, or the love of any thing but money in their hearts, have left this fatal propenſity to their children, the Griſon governors of the preſent day.

Over this community ignorance holds its leaden ſceptre, not the ignorance of ſimplicity, ariſing from the want of communication with the world, but from a ſtate of ſocial degradation. In vain ſome Eurylochus, who had eſcaped the contagion, endeavoured to reclaim his countrymen by introducing amongſt them thoſe arts which ſoften our manners, and exalt our nature, inſtituting a college for the inſtruction of youth at a conſiderable expence; the generous attempt failed, after a trial of

ſome years, and the day of reformation and knowledge was deferred to a more convenient ſeaſon. In the mean time, the places of authority are beſtowed on the higheſt bidder; the judges divide amongſt them the monies extorted from the tortured priſoner; in ſome diſtricts the trials of criminals are days of feſtivals to the judges, at the expence of the wretches they condemn; and crimes over which a regard to public morals ſhould throw a veil, are made to flaunt in the face of day, in order that the number of convicts may ſwell the purſe of the tribunal.

The moral and political vices of theſe democracies can furniſh no arguments againſt governments founded on the rights of the people; ſince the abuſe of principles can never deſtroy the force of the principle itſelf. It would be

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inconclusive reasoning to assert that because the *democracies* of Uri and the Grisons are despotic, and corrupt, the *representative* government of France, or any other *representative* government, must necessarily be infected with similar vices. We might with the same truth assert, that because the republics of Greece and Rome, but half known to freedom, were sometimes disturbed by faction, liberty was therefore not made for man; although, perhaps, ignorant of its true principles, one of these republics subdued the world by its valour, and the other dignified it with all that is great in literature, and the arts.

Like the democracies, and other free States of Switzerland, the democracy of the Grisons had its ultramontane territories, and its subjects, its proconsuls, conquered provinces, tributes, homages,

and

and other diſtinguiſhed marks of abſolute ſovereignty.

The Valteline, comprehending the provinces of Bormio, and Chiavenna, now forming part of the Ciſalpine republic, were, at the time of our viſit to the Griſons, a dependency of that government. The country of the Valteline is ſeparated from the Griſons on the north, and from the ſtates of Venice on the eaſt, and the ſouth, by Alpine mountains and Glaciers, and is open on the weſt to the plains of Milan; from which government it was diſmembered in the beginning of the ſixteenth century, when the Griſons and the biſhop of Coire, the laſt of whom had pretentions in right of ſome frivolous donation, and the former repoſing their pretentions on thoſe of their biſhop, drove out the

French,

French, and became the legitimate poſ-
ſeſſors.

The hiſtory of this country is little more than a diſplay of the worſt paſſions of mankind. The biſhop was diſpoſſeſſed of his ſhare of the ſovereignty ſoon after the conqueſt. In the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, the inhabitants ſtung to madneſs by the terrible oppreſsion of their maſters, who attempted amongſt other acts of tyranny, to introduce by force the reformation which they had themſelves embraced, committed a general maſſacre of ſuch of their oppreſſors as were in their power, threw off their yoke, and placed themſelves under the protection of the King of Spain.

By the aid of the Swiſs proteſtant Cantons, and of France, during the adminiſtra-

miniſtration of Richlieu, the Griſons became again maſters of theſe provinces, but with powers more limited. Diſcontented at the privileges granted to their ſubjects by the ſtipulations which they were compelled to make with the French, and which they conſidered as derogatory to their ſovereign dignity, the Griſons ſought the aid of their former enemies, the Spaniards, who not only aſsiſted them in expelling the French from the Valteline, but delivered up this unfortunate people whom they had ſome years before taken under their protection, after having excited them to revolt, into the hands of their ancient oppreſſors, under whoſe dominion they have remained till the late epocha of their hiſtory.

All that is vicious in the principle of Swiſs ultramontane government, was reduced

reduced to rigorous practice by the Grifons in the Valteline. The wretched inhabitants were not only robbed with impunity by codeftas and bailiffs, who had previoufly purchafed the right of plunder from their co-fovereigns the Grifons, from whom collectively they held their authority; but the hiftory of the fhamelefs manner in which that power was adminiftered, is too difguft-ing for detail.

Although the inhabitants of the Valte-line have been compelled to fubmit by force to this coarfe tyranny, their fpirit has never been fubdued. The indig-nation which has led them at the pre-fent moment to fhake off the yoke of their tyrants, they have inherited in long fucceffion from their fore-fathers, of whofe contempt of the Grifons the Duke of Rohan treats in his Memoires

on the Valteline war; where, though an ally of theſe democracies, he aſ-ſerts, that "their deplorable corruption is become an incurable evil, proceeding from the nature of the people who have raked together all the vices of Europe without collecting a ſingle vir-tue."

The day of deliverance for theſe op-preſſed ſubjects of the Griſon democra-cies was, however, drawing nigh. The ſhouts of liberty that filled the plains of Lombardy, re-echoed amidſt their rocks, and rouſed into a noble and ge-nerous flame the ſmothered indignation which power had ſo long compreſſed. Placed near the ſpot where waved the banners of the French Republic, the Valtelines were not again compelled to break their chains on the heads of their oppreſſors, or ſeek refuge from their

ſlavery

ſlavery as heretofore, in the arms of deſpotiſm. The will to be free was now become the only price of freedom; and the ſecurity of their independence no more repoſes on the caprice of princes, who might again betray them, as they have already been betrayed, but is founded on thoſe great and eternal principles, the impreſcriptible rights of mankind, which no ſophiſtry can controvert, and which no power can deſtroy.

CHAP. XXV.

Griſon Mode of negociating.—Deputation to Buonaparte.—Buonaparte.

THE late inſurrection of theſe provinces, was not an ordinary revolt ſuch as had been often excited in theſe ſubject States, and which the power of the ſovereign aided by that of the Cantons always confederated to cruſh rebellions, had till now been able to ſubdue. The preſence of French armies, and the eſtabliſhment of a new republic in the neighbourhood, were circumſtances that wore ſo formidable an aſpect, that an alliance of the Cantons in the preſent inſtance was judged inexpedient, and the Griſons were left to arrange their own concerns with their revolted ſubjects. The Griſons were not inclined to try the fate of arms, but

ſatisfied

ſatisfied themſelves with requeſting the mediation of the French Republic to bring back their rebellious children to their duty. This mediation was accepted by the revolted provinces, and it was agreed that deputations ſhould be ſent by both parties to Milan, where the French General ſhould hear and decide between them. The ſubjects ſent their deputies immediately, and frequent meſſages were diſpatched to the Griſons, to requeſt the preſence alſo of their ambaſſador. Some time elapſed, and no ambaſſador appearing, the French General by means of the envoy of the Republic at Coire, who had often urged the Griſons to fulfil the engagement they had made of accepting this mediation, informed them that the fatal term was fixed at a month from the diſpatch of the meſſage. The Griſons continued to keep a profound ſilence,

no anſwer was returned, and no deputies were ſent. The French General therefore undertook, with the help of the Ciſalpine Republic, to ſettle the buſineſs without their interpoſition; and after recapitulating the cauſes of the diſcontent of the governed, and the refuſal of the governors to abide by their own engagements, after decreeing that "no people can be the ſubjects of another people, without violating the principles of public and natural right, and that the provinces were diſſolved from every kind of allegiance, declared the people of the Valteline, Chiavenna, and Bormio, a free and independent nation, and accepted the re-union which they ſolicited to the Ciſalpine Republic."

The Griſon governors, when they ſaw of how little avail had been their dig-

nified

nified ſilence, began to reproach each other bitterly for their conduct. The people themſelves gave louder tokens of their diſcontent. Deputies from various communes haſtened to Coire, and demanded the convocation of a general diet, the diſmiſsion of the Congreſs, the renewal of their friendſhip with France, and the admiſsion of the Valteline to a part of their ſovereignty. Theſe demands were ſubmitted by the Congreſs to all the communes of the three leagues; their deputies aſſembled, and after having depoſed and arreſted the three chiefs, and the whole of the members of the ſilent congreſs, and appointed a commiſsion of thirty to reform abuſes and complete the revolution, decreed that ambaſſadors ſhould be ſent to demand a reviſion of the ſentence paſſed againſt them, to offer excuſes for the want of reſpect in their

government, and to give every kind of fatisfaction to Buonaparte.

Buonaparte !—the reflecting mind when it looks back through paſt ages, ſighs with regret while it diſcerns how enormous is the liſt of the deſtroyers of their race, which hiſtory preſents under the name of heroes; and how ſmall the proportional number of divine original, whó have bleſſed or amended mankind*. Surely from ſome ſtrange deluſion in our nature does it ariſe, that the ſtrongeſt paſsions which have agitated the human breaſt are thoſe of looſe and frantic ambition, delighted in making the world groan under its chains; or of profligate glory, quenching its inſatiate thirſt at the torrent of tears which it forces humanity to ſhed. The leſſons of temper-

* And all of God who bleſs mankind, or mend."
POPE.

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ance with which ſages have interpoſed to calm the fury, or moderate the rage of the conqueror, have ſunk under the genius of the poet; who, with confederated frenzy, has goaded on to new crimes, by ſtringing to his immortal lyre the praiſes of heroes who were paſt, and extolling with frantic rapture thoſe brilliant actions which ſhrink from the teſt of moral ſcrutiny.

Happily a new æra opens to the world; the maddening charm of the poet is at length diſſolved by the mild wand of philoſophy, and the heroes meed ariſes from other exploits than thoſe of multitudes deſtroyed, and provinces deſolated. It is not Buonaparte ſcaling the Alps, and chaſing the imperial eagle back to its haunts, after tearing from its beak its choiceſt prey, that claims the tranſport of admiration; his acts of valour

may have been unequalled; the heroes of ancient and modern times may ſink before him; "his penetrating mind," to uſe the animated language of the ſtatesman, "may maſter fortune and enchain futurity; his commanding genius may be unrivalled as his courage;" but theſe are not his loftieſt honours; theſe are not his proudeſt claims to glory; what ſwells the heart with reverence, is not the hero ſtanding in the breach, it is the benefactor of his race converting the deſtructive lightening of the conqueror's ſword into the benignant rays of freedom, and preſenting to vanquiſhed nations the emblems of liberty and independence entwined with the olive of peace.

This is, indeed, a novelty of greatneſs; theſe are unparalleled acts of pure expanſive beneficence; nor do we won-

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der to find aſſociated with ſuch a mind, " that diſtinguiſhed ſimplicity of taſte, that love of abſtract ſcience, that profound contempt for luxury and ſplendor, the attributes of common ſouls;" and, what excites in my heart, ſome emotion of national pride, " that ſympathy with the elevated ſentiments, the pathetic ſublimity of Oſsian; Oſsian, the companion of his ſolitary hours, who ſeems to raiſe him above this terreſtrial region."

" The glory of Buonaparte," ſays the eloquent miniſter, " belongs to the revolution, to his valorous ſoldiers, to France." The glory of Buonaparte ſoars beyond theſe limits, however enlarged, or extended; he belongs not excluſively to France, or her revolution; like Homer, or Newton, Buonaparte belongs to the world.

CHAP. XXVI.

Baths of Pffyffer.—Sargans.—Wallenſtad.—Views of the Lake.—Journey over the Mountains.—Mountain Phænomena.

THE road from Coire lies along the banks of the Rhine, through an ample valley, bounded by mountains which ſtill retain ſome features of the ſavage Alpine character. The landſcape ſoftened its rugged brow as we advanced through paſtoral meadows to Mayenfield, which we went out of our road to viſit. This town is the boundary of the Griſon government, and from ſome peculiarity in the original contract of union, is at once ſubject to the Griſon league, and co-ſovereign. Returning back towards Coire, we croſſed a bridge over the Rhine, and followed the road leading to Ragatz, and the baths of Pffyffer. Theſe baths are reſorted to by the ſick, for the cure of various maladies; and to the

lovers

lovers of nature in her moſt romantic garb, no reſidence can be more delightful than the habitation which is built for the reception of viſitors. The water is conducted to this dwelling by pipes; the place where it takes its ſource, and where with great inconvenience, and even danger, the ſick were formerly compelled to deſcend, being now viſited only by thoſe who are curious to ſee a gulph which conveys an image of the more tremendous abyſſes of the Alps.

The Abbey of Pffyffer is ſituated on the hill riſing from the Rhine, and commands a magnificent view over the country beneath. The Abbot is Prince of the Empire, and Seigneur, not only of the baths, which are greatly indebted to his munificence and that of his predeceſſors, but alſo of all the country around. The Abbey is of the order of St. Benedict,

and dates its origin from the eighth century.

From Ragatz we journied on to Sargans, a Bailliwick belonging to the eight original Cantons, who each in their turn ſend a Bailiff, whoſe office laſts two years. The town is ſituated on a gentle aſcent, beneath the lofty Schalberb, which forms a chain of the mountains of Appenzell. The caſtle, which was the conſtant reſidence of the Counts of Sargans, is ſeated on a rock that overlooks the town, and preſents a pictureſque appearance from the road. The inhabitants are of the mixt religion, and have ſome ſort of privilege in the election of their magiſtrates under the inſpection of the Bailiff.

The town of Wallenſtadt, ſubject to the eight Cantons, and comprehended in the Bailliwick of Sargans, is ſituated at

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the head of the lake which bears its name, and is one of the principal depôts of merchandize paſsing between the Griſons and Switzerland. As almoſt the whole of this region is ſubject-country, their is little diverſity in their forms of government: ſome have more privileges than others; but all are ſubject to the ſovereign will of the free Cantons, and of the Bailiffs, their legitimate repreſentatives.

The weather was remarkably fine when we arrived at Wallenſtadt, although the rain which had fallen during the night, had ſpread over the mountains a thin covering of ſnow. We concluded that in two or three hours we ſhould be tranſported down the lake to Weſen, as we came in time to take advantage of the eaſterly wind which we were told blows in that direction the firſt half of the day.

day. The morning of our arrival was, however, an exception to the general rule, and the wind blew obſtinately from the weſt. The boatmen ſeemed diſinclined to venture; and the maſter of the inn ſupporting their repreſentations, we diſcontinued our inſtances; and fearing the wind might remain in the ſame humour the next day, and the day after, determined to render ourſelves independent of its caprice, by travelling along the ſouthern ſide of the lake, and over the mountain, to Glaris.

The road we were aſſured was very practicable; and ſuch it might be deemed by the inhabitants of thoſe wild regions, and by ourſelves indeed, accuſtomed as we now were to difficult enterprizes in travelling; but as the common mode of tranſport is by water, no attention was paid to keep it in repair. In ſome places

we

we were obliged to descend into the lake, in others to climb over rocks, trusting to the prudence and skill of our horses, rather than to our own judgment. But the dangers of the way were often forgotten in admiration of the scene through which it led.

On the southern side of the lake along which we journied, the swelling hills are covered with fine pasturage, and romantic woods, interspersed with hamlets and cottages up to the lofty snow-covered steeps that form the mountains of Glaris. Over the lake on the northern side, the Glattewand reared its perpendicular head near two thousand feet from the water, and presenting along its edge a terrific prolongation of inaccessible rampart, far as the Ammon, from whose still loftier summit the Ammenback rolls, in majestic cataracts, its ample volume, whose sweeping

ing grandeur and refounding roar, though ſoftened in their effect by the diſtance, fixed us long to the ſpot from whence we gazed.

After a ride of ſome hours, we quitted the lake, and began to aſcend the mountain of Kerenzen. Here the path became ſtill more dangerous, ſometimes leading us to the very edge of the precipice, which hung over the diſtant maſs of waters, far beneath, and ſometimes being ſo perpendicularly ſteep, that we owed our ſafety entirely to the goat-like habits of climbing which our horſes had acquired in their travels over the Alps.

The Swiſs mountains ſeldom furniſh objects of perſpective; but the proſpect from Kerenzen left us no regrets for the weſterly wind, or the difficulties of the journey. We had now aſcended the moun-

mountains of Glaris; the views we had hitherto enjoyed unfolded themſelves in more ample extent; and the enormous ridge of rock on the northern ſide of the lake fell beneath our eyes, and ſeemed only to ſkirt the waters. In the back-ground of the heights on which we ſtood, the eye ranged over craggy peaks and ſummits, far as the immenſely diſtant Alps and Glaciers of the Tyrol. Their ſnows were tinged with the purple light of the laſt beams of the ſun, which, encircled by a glorious canopy of clouds, was deſcending on the lake of Zurich, that lay before us in long perſpective, blazing like the orb which lent its luſtre; and when viewed through the teleſcope, preſenting its ruffled waters, and the veſſels gliding on their ſurface, like the tremulations on the diſk of that luminary, and the ſpots within its circle.

We had loitered high up the mountain, led on by the majeſtic ſcenery both of heaven and of earth, when we were informed by the knot of peaſants who had aſſembled around us from the little huts in the neighbourhood, and had been amuſing themſelves alſo in peeping occaſionally through our glaſſes, that the ſtorm was riſing from the lake, and might reach us before we deſcended to the village where we had left our horſes. We could perceive no appearance of this threatened tempeſt; but ſoon after we heard the thunder rolling along the oppoſite cliffs, and found that the mountaineers were endowed with clearer perceptions of diſcovery than ourſelves. We had not proceeded far before our own mountains became the ſeat of uproar, and fantaſtic tortuous threads of lightning twiſted themſelves around us, and flaſhed before our eyes in forms of endleſs variety.

riety. The peaſants having aſſured me that thoſe vivid lightnings played harmleſs in that region, we deſcended ſtill further, and had taken leave of our guides, as we were now within reach of the village, when we ſtopped to gaze on another phænomenon, no leſs remarkable than the former. This was the ſlow approach of the genius of the ſtorm, in his habitation of pitchy darkneſs, and which appeared as if one of the adjoining mountains was on its march. This immenſe, and apparently ponderous body of clouds, moved onwards to a ſpot not far diſtant from us, before we could well appreciate its ſubſtance; when the moon riſing behind us ſuddenly, threw her bright beams on the vapourous maſs, and preſented to our gaze a perfect rainbow, chaſtened in its colours by the ſoft reflection of lunar light. This mountain of clouds remained fixed in its ſtation, from the dying away

of the breeze by which it had been impelled, till at length it ſunk into air, and no longer chained us to the ſpot by the ſtrong attraction of a new and ſublime image of nature.

CHAP. XXVII.

Glaris.—Antient and modern Modes of human Traffic. —Democratical Government.—Deſcription of a popular Aſſembly.—Religious Toleration.

THE next morning we croſſed the Walenberg, and deſcended into the valley of Glaris, through foreſts of pine, and paſturages, ſprinkled over with cattle, the road offering at every ſtep rich proſpects of the lake of Zurich, and the country riſing from its banks. In the opening of this valley are ſeated two or three pleaſant villages, of which Nefels is celebrated for the victory gained over the Auſtrian army, at the cloſe of the fourteenth century, when about four hundred men, by a Sampſon-like manœuvre, defeated a numerous hoſt, by rolling ſtones from the mountains, and cruſhing the invaders, who were entangled in the ravins

beneath.—The town of Glaris is neatly built, and the principal ſtreet is ornamented with fountains. This indeed is a decoration that belongs to moſt of the towns of Switzerland; the ſtreets are uſually purified, and enlivened by limpid currents, which flow along their ſides; and the higheſt roads are often cheered with the ſame laviſh gift of nature. I obſerved that wherever I wandered in Switzerland, on mountain, or in valley, I never ceaſed to hear the ſound of waters; the rill, the brook, the lake, the torrent, the caſcade, in all their rich variety of tones, ſometimes ſoft, ſometimes loud, ſtrike ſucceſsively upon the ſoul, or fill up one mighty harmony. The appearance of Glaris, buried between lofty and almoſt perpendicular mountains, which were covered from the ſtorm of the preceding evening with a layer of ſnow, is picturesque and romantic; but the city is

placed

placed in the moſt inconvenient part of the valley.

We aſcended no further than Glaris, and were therefore deprived of the gratification of ſeeing thoſe parts of the Canton which are eſteemed the moſt beautiful and intereſting. Mr. Ramond obſerves, that this country, ſecured by impregnable mountains, "ſeems to have been deſtined by nature for the inviolable aſylum of liberty." The mountains may have been powerful auxiliaries in the attainment of liberty; but without the unconquerable mind, the firm purpoſe to be free that firſt broke the chains of ſervitude, mountains would have proved but feeble ramparts. Thoſe of the "iron frontier of France" were twice found inſecure againſt the invading hoſt; and it was on the plains of Champagne, and Fleurus, that the

Genius of War bent before that of Liberty.

The hiſtories of theſe Cantons are nearly the ſame; the ſame ſovereignty and the ſame ſervitude. Some of the Cantons bore the yoke of Kings, ſome of Nobles; that of Glaris was under the tutorage of the Abbeſs and Nuns of Seckingen, who transferred their privileges to the ſon of an Emperor. The Swiſs appear to have been treated with as little ceremony in thoſe days, as the Poles in our own. There is, however, one circumſtance belonging to this ſpecies of traffic in which the refinement of our civilized times claims the preeminence over the barbarous ages; the rights of mankind were then the only objects of barter, while one of the moſt profitable branches of commercial ſpeculation at preſent, is the ſale of the ſpecies itſelf,

itſelf. Yet from this monſtrous, this coloſſal crime, many of the nations of Europe turn away abhorrent; and the execrable traffic belongs almoſt excluſively to that deſpotic country which firſt diſcovered, and which ſtill holds in her feeble, but oppreſsive graſp, the weſtern hemiſphere; and to that iſland which was the birth-place, and the refuge of liberty; but where now,

" Stern Independence from his glebe retires,
" And anxious Freedom eyes her drooping fires;
" By foreign wealth are Britiſh morals chang'd,
" And Africk's ſons, and India's, ſmile aveng'd."

MRS. BARBAULD.

In the middle of the fourteenth century, the neighbouring Cantons having driven the Auſtrians out of their own country, rendered the ſame ſervice to the Canton of Glaris; and the battle of Nefels confirmed the quiet poſſeſsion. The Government is purely democratical. A Council

of

of Regency, conſiſting of ſixty-three members, compoſe the executive power, of which the officer called the Landamman, is the chief. The legiſlative power reſides in the maſs of the people, above the age of ſixteen, who meet in general aſſembly once a year, to propoſe laws, or ſanction regulations proviſionally adopted by the executive power; to make alliances, declare war, or peace, and name their public officers. Theſe aſſemblies are held, for the moſt part, in the ſpring; Mr. Ramond gives an intereſting account of one at which he was preſent when the treaty with France was the ſubject of diſcuſsion. A fall of rain had ſwelled the torrents, and prevented the greater part of the Sovereign people from attending. The Canton, it ſeems, was divided into two parties, one of which was in oppoſition to the reigning powers. This party, being on the right ſide of the

torrents,

torrents, were for proceeding immediately to buſineſs, and catching the favourable opportunity of the fall of rain which prevented the arrival of their opponents. But, after long debate, this propoſition was over-ruled, and the meeting adjourned.

" During the Sunday," continues Mr. Ramond, " the Voters came into Schivanden from all ſides; and the number being nearly complete, they aſſembled, the following day, on a meadow of a few acres, at the foot of a mountain and near the village, where the general aſſembly is held. A quadruple row of benches was placed, and a circle formed of more than three hundred feet in diameter. The magiſtrates having taken their ſeats in the inner part of the circle, the people, conſiſting of about four thouſand men, all armed, ſeated themſelves on the other benches,

benches, without diſtinction, except their paſtors, who were placed next their magiſtrates. The Preſident ſtood leaning on the ſword of Liberty, near the centre of the circle, with the Secretary, and two Serjeants, dreſſed in the livery of the Canton. The women keep at a diſtance; but boys not yet ſixteen have a right to go within the circle, provided they remain ſeated, and do not diſturb the deliberations*."

"The Aſſembly was opened by a diſcourſe from the Preſident, who gave an account, with noble ſimplicity, of the

* "The Preſident leans on a long and heavy cimeter, being one of thoſe which were formerly employed in driving out the Auſtrians. It is without ornament, and was the ſword of ſome valorous patriot of the fourteenth century. What a ſceptre is ſuch a ſword, when it is a Republican who wields it!"—M. RAMOND.

details

details of his commiſsion, and of the reaſons which had led him to ſign the treaty.....He then propoſed its ratification, for which the Ambaſſador of France was waiting at Soleure. An object of ſuch importance ſhould be decided by the majority of voices; but the whole Aſſembly cried out with one voice, that it was uſeleſs to count them, and that if there were a citizen preſent who was not a friend to the French, it was better he kept himſelf concealed. The acclamations were redoubled with a tranſport of which I explained the cauſe, and not without ſome pride, to my Engliſh companions."

This overflowing affection might poſſibly have been founded on honourable motives, yet it is difficult to diſcover at firſt ſight, what was the tie of ſympathy

between the two Governments. Habitual intercourſe ſometimes changes repugnance into friendſhip; and it was perhaps from thoſe habits that the Democracy of Glaris, like the other Democracies of Switzerland, became enamoured of the deſpotiſm of France. But it is ſingular enough, that when France, in becoming free, deſerved and claimed the continuance of this faithful attachment, we then ſaw no Preſident of any Canton of Switzerland "leaning on the ſword that had heretofore been the inſtrument of repelling Auſtrians," propoſe the renewal of a treaty with France; we heard no unanimous exclamation, that "If there was a citizen not a friend to the French, he had better keep himſelf concealed; and, no meſſage propoſed with burſts of applauſe, to the French Ambaſſador at Soleure. Theſe republican allies of

France

France had driven him, in the moment of her diſtreſs, to ſeek refuge in another diſtrict.

The popular Aſſemblies of the little Cantons have excited the enthuſiaſm of generous minds, who fancied that they ſaw in thoſe democracies the return of the age of the old Romans, and the republicans of Greece. The elegant writer whom I have quoted, admits however, that the hiſtory of Switzerland furniſhes terrible examples of the furious paſsions at thoſe meetings.

We have already mentioned the project of the Oppoſition upon the ſwell of the torrent. "The tumultuous menaces and preſſure of the turbulent groupe on the Preſident and Council," adds M. Ramond, "preſented a ſpectacle frightful indeed to thoſe who had been accuſtomed

cuſtomed to peaceable aſſemblies." Rouſſeau had alſo probably overlooked thoſe inconveniencies of Democracy, when, in his Social Contract, he treated repreſentative government as a political hereſy, and became the panegyriſt of thoſe leſſer tyrannies, from diſguſt, no doubt, at the monotonous oppreſsion of deſpotic governments.

This Canton preſents a truly amiable picture of religious toleration: while, in the other governments of Switzerland, the dominating religion

"Bears, like the Turk, no Brother near the throne,"
POPE.

here the diverſity of faith makes no diſtinction in charity, and the only difference is in the preponderance of numbers. The Proteſtants being the great majority, the Preſident of that profeſsion

remains

remains in office three years, while the Catholic holds his ſeat but two; the Council of Regency is alſo choſen in the proportion of the population. The church is common to both ſects; and nothing is in diſuſe with both parties but the organ, which, being an eſſential part of divine ſervice, cannot be ſuppoſed to emit with equal harmony orthodox and heretical ſounds.

The love of dominion, in other reſpects, pervades this Canton, as it does all the others of the Confederation. This democracy has alſo its appropriate ſubjects in the country of Verdenberg, and its ſhare of different ſubject countries in Switzerland, ſuch as the Rhintal, Sargans, Thurgovia, and the dominions beyond the Alps. So great is the purity of manners in this Canton, that no capital crimes are committed, and the name of a public

execution is not known. Twenty years ſince, we are told, that a foreign executioner was hired for this diſagreeable office; yet I heard from a reſpectable Magiſtrate of Baſil, that, not above ten years ſince, the Judges of this Canton condemned an old woman to death, under pretence of her being a Witch.

CHAP. XXVIII.

Lake of Zurich.—State of Literature.—Government. Revolt againſt the Government.—Public Seminaries and Hoſpitals.—Religious Education.

FROM the Canton of Glaris we traverſed part of the Canton of Schweitz to Lachen, a port on the Lake of Zurich, for the merchandize conſigned to the Griſons or Italy. Here we embarked, bidding adieu to Glaciers, rocks, and torrents, for a landſcape diverſified with all the milder beauties of nature, ſuch as paſtoral hills, gardens, vines, orchards, and fields of corn, and interſperſed with country ſeats, and well built handſome villages, which preſented themſelves in graceful variety on each ſide of the borders of this charming Lake.

Theſe inland ſeas not only form one of the moſt intereſting objects of Swiſs perſpective, but alſo one of the moſt convenient modes of communication. A greater quantity of cultivated land, and fewer lakes might, perhaps, be more uſeful, though it would be leſs pictureſque; and it was, no doubt, with this patriotic perſuaſion, that a citizen of ſome eminence at Lucerne, while I was dwelling with rapture on the romantic beauties of his lake, obſerved to me, that had they a King in Switzerland, he would ſoon find means of drying it up. How ſtrange an idea this republican had formed of the taſte and power of Kings!

The lake of Zurich is about thirty miles long, and from two to three miles broad; the bridge of Rapperſchwill is built acroſs the narroweſt part, and appeared as we paſt under it, to be upwards of a mile in length.

Zurich

Zurich enjoys a high pre-eminence above the other towns of Switzerland for private and domeſtic virtues; and is alſo the principal ſeat of the ſciences and arts. This town has been called the Athens of Switzerland, and there is no place where literature is cultivated with more ardour, or where the public mind is better informed.

This taſte for letters, whatever tendency it may have had to purify their manners, has been ineffectual to correct the vices of the government. The Canton of Zurich, like that of Baſil, has its great and little councils, and two Burgo-maſters; it contains upwards of one hundred and ſeventy thouſand ſouls, but the ſovereignty reſides in a portion only of the citizens of Zurich not exceeding two thouſand; if, therefore, the ſuperior magnitude of this Canton to that of Baſil be conſidered, and

the diſproportionate numbers who poſſeſs the rights of ſovereignty, Zurich will be found the more deſpotic government.—Of theſe two thouſand, two hundred only are inveſted with power, the remainder having no other privilege than that of being raiſed by the choice of the councils to a ſhare in the dignity when a vacancy happens by death; ſo that the government is nothing but a mere oligarchy, incompatible with every idea of a free political inſtitution.

The ſyſtem of monopolizing is practiſed with greater ſeverity in this town than at Baſil. In the former Canton, all who are not of the number of the elect, and within the pale of the two thouſand, are ſtrangers, ſubjects or ſerfs, and can engage in no commerce, exerciſe no profeſsion, or even hope to arrive at the dignity of Burgher, which confers theſe important privileges,

privileges, it being now near two centuries ſince this corporation has permitted any acceſsion to its members. This civic degradation is, however, but a negative kind of puniſhment compared with the vexations to which the unprivileged claſſes are compelled to ſubmit at the nod of the Burghers their ſovereigns. The peaſant is ſtrictly prohibited tranſmitting the object of his induſtry and labour acroſs the limits of his Canton, or in any other direction than that of the town of Zurich. To labour for the profit of the Burgher is the occupation of his life, and the end of his exiſtence; to murmur is treaſon, to reſiſt is death.

The French revolution has numerous advocates in the town of Zurich, men highly enlightened and ardent in the cauſe of liberty, and the veto of the cenſor of the preſs is ſaid to be leſs rigid than in

the other parts of Switzerland. Whence then did it ariſe, that no advocate but the pen of a foreigner was found to plead the cauſe of the ſubject towns of the Canton, when two years ſince their repreſentations of the abuſes under which they groaned, and their demands of redreſs were anſwered in the uſual ſtile of reply to ſuch treaſonable petitions and remonſtrances, by impriſonment, fines or baniſhment?

Were the boaſted happineſs of the ſubject claſſes of Switzerland founded in truth, it is not probable that revolts againſt the ſovereign would be ſo frequent. No people revolt againſt happineſs. The inſurrection in the middle of the laſt century of the ſubject inhabitants of four Cantons, known by the name of the Peaſant's War, when Berne was beſieged with their wooden cannon, was

certainly

certainly no rebellion againſt their own proſperity; and the towns and villages of the Canton of Zurich, when in 1795, they produced their charter in proof of the juſtice of their claims, were in no conſpiracy againſt comfort and independence. It is true that the inſurgents were not beheaded like the officer who ſome years ſince diſcovered in the duſt of the archives ſome muſty record of their ancient rights which he communicated to a friend; but they are ſmarting ſeverely, at this moment, under the effects of the inſulted dignity of the ſovereign burghers.

We are told that at Zurich, more than in any other town of Switzerland, that zeal for liberty which diſtinguiſhed the founders of this brave nation, is ſtill cheriſhed. But a hero of the fourteenth century, who chaſed the Auſtrians from the ſoil, would, perhaps, frown with con-

tempt

tempt on this boaſted ſpirit of freedom, could he behold the recent ſeverities which theſe republican lovers of equal rights have exerciſed againſt their oppreſſed ſubjects. The municipal and internal regulations of this city are highly worthy of praiſe. The government has founded various eſtabliſhments for public relief and inſtruction; amongſt the former is the orphan aſylum, the inſtitution for apprenticing poor children, and furniſhing their parents with money, clothes, and religious books; the hoſpitals for incurables, and alſo for the ſick and diſeaſed of every religion and country. For the purpoſes of inſtruction ſeveral academies are ſupported at the expence of government, public education being the affair of the State. Among other inſtitutions are colleges for the claſsics, and belles lettres, and arts, and alſo for ſtudents in theology. Religious impreſsions are very early inculcated,

culcated, and nothing that I saw in Switzerland has left a more pleasing impression on my mind than a numerous audience which we found assembled on entering a large church at Zurich, and composed entirely of childien who were receiving instruction from their ministers in their religious duties. It requires but little knowledge of the human heart to feel the inestimable advantage of impressing early on the ductile mind those habits of virtue and piety which shed a cheering and steady light over the intricate mazes of a turbulent world.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIX.

Return to Lucerne.—Stantz.—Viſit to the Abbot of Engelberg.

AFTER reviſiting Baſil, we returned again to Lucerne. Our ſtay in this place had been too ſhort in our way over the mountains to take more than a tranſient view of the ſurrounding country; but a ſtill more powerful motive engaged us to return; one of our fellow-travellers in croſsing mount Albis to meet us at Zurich, having had the misfortune to be thrown from his carriage, was confined with a broken limb at Lucerne. Though I am not permitted to name the perſon to whom I allude, thoſe by whom he is known will admit, that if any human being has a claim to the ſympathetic duties of friendſhip, it is he who unites with all the higher qualities of the mind,

a heart

a heart glowing with the pureſt feelings of philanthropy, and more unſullied by the ſlighteſt taint of ſelfiſhneſs, than any other character I have ever obſerved.

During our ſtay at Lucerne, we viſited various parts of the country bordering on the lake. The firſt of our excurſions was directed towards the Canton of Underwalden, into which we paſſed acroſs the branch of the lake that waſhes the baſe of mount Pilate, from Winkel to Stantzſtad, the port belonging to the capital of the Canton, which is the town of Stantz.

This town, or rather great village, is about two miles diſtant from the lake, ſeated amidſt charming meadows and gardens, with a noble back ground of well wooded mountains. The church is

a fine building, fupported by magnifi-cent columns in marble, and the town-houſe is alſo a reſpectable edifice; but the moſt illuſtrious ornament of the place is the ſtatue of the immortal Winkelried, who ſtands erect on a pedeſtal before the principal fountain, holding one of the ſpears which was graſped by ſome hero in the battle of Sempach.

The rain had confined us for ſome hours at this town, and we were fearful that the increaſe of the torrents would prevent our expedition to Engelberg; but a gleam of ſunſhine invited us to proceed. After leaving Stantz, we paſſed along a delicious valley thickly ſown with cottages, hamlets, and farm-houſes, agreeably ſhaded with fruit-trees. Five miles beyond Stantz the valley cloſes, and we aſcended the mountain three leagues to Engelberg. Our path lay along a tor-

rent

rent ſtream over hung by foreſts of pine, and the ſcenery, without preſenting the ſtupendous grandeur of the Alps, was rich in the uſual wild and romantic appendages of Swiſs mountains.

Having attained the ſummit, we paſſed by a winding deſcent into a valley ſeated within a circle of lofty hills, covered with wood, or paſture; beyond which riſe the majeſtic chain of mountains, whoſe tops are covered with perpetual ſnow. This valley, placed amidſt a chaos of rocks and Glaciers, is about two miles in length, and one in breadth; in the centre are ſituated the village and abbey of Engelberg. The latter is an edifice of fine conſtruction, particularly the church, built in part with a kind of black marble, quarries of which are found in that country; this ſtructure, diſplaying the elegance of art, forms a ſtriking

contraſt

contraſt to the furrounding deſarts of nature.

We arrived too late in the evening to preſent our letters to the Abbot, and therefore took up our reſidence at the inn of the village, where, though accuſtomed to mountain air and accommodation, we paſſed a night of piercing cold, ariſing probably from the recent fall of rain which had thrown a veil of ſnow over the ſurrounding hills.

Early the next morning the Abbot, who is a Prince of the Empire, ſent his chancellor to invite us to repair to the monaſtery, where we accompanied him, and were introduced to a venerable looking prieſt, who received us with the moſt cordial hoſpitality, kindly reproaching us for the late hour of our arrival,

arrival, and lamenting, with the politeneſs of a man of the world, that I had been expoſed to the inconveniences of the homely inn.

As it was Sunday, the duties of the morning, he informed us, compelled him to remit his attentions towards us for a ſhort time, which we might employ in viewing the library; this, however, we deferred, and accompanied the chancellor to a gallery in the church which was crouded with villagers.

In thoſe elevated regions, beyond which no human creature can exiſt, and where nature itſelf ſeems to expire, the inhabitant of the diſtant mountain, and he that dwells in ſome remote glen of the valley, ſecluded by their ſituation from the world, and by their daily occupations from the ſociety of each

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other, hail the return of the day ſet apart for religious obſervances, as a double feſtival, as a means of intercourſe with earth, and with heaven. The pomp and ceremonial of the worſhip muſt alſo be peculiarly ſtriking to the imagination of the peaſant, who, confined to a nook of his native hill, has never formed any comparative ideas of ſplendour or magnificence; and the Abbot has rendered the ſolemnities of the ſervice ſtill more affecting by the charm of delightful muſic.

Nothing could be more congenial to thoſe finer emotions of the ſoul which riſe into devotion than the harmonious ſymphonies that thrilled upon the ear, while the lifted eye fixed itſelf upon the vaſt perſpective ſweep of ſnow-covered Alps that form the ſtupendous horizon of the valley. In the foreground

ground of this gigantic mafs ftands the bold impending mountain from which the monaftery takes its name * ; and on which fublime orcheftra, not unworthy of the celeftial choir, angels are fabled to have tuned to their golden harps the aufpicious hymn of its confecration.

The Abbot is Sovereign Lord of Engelberg, under the protection of the four adjoining Cantons. The number of his fubjects over whom he holds unlimited jurifdiction, amounts to about twelve hundred. The cares of his executive government devolve on four or

* Engelberg, in the language of the country, fignifies the mountain of angels. Whatever intercourfe his predeceffors might have had with thefe heavenly meffengers, the prince, citing a line from an epiftle of Horace, declared to one of my fellow-travellers his doubts refpecting this celeftial confecration.

five miniſters and officers; and the judicial power is entruſted to four judges, whom he chuſes out of twelve previouſly named by the people; theſe, with the miniſters above mentioned, form the civil and criminal tribunals of his ſtate, which are held in a room of the Abbey, and of which his chancellor is ſecretary.

Such is the form of government in this community: not indeed compoſed in the neweſt ſtile of political organization, but ſuch as from the adminiſtration of the preſent ſovereign, is felt as a bleſsing by all who live under its influence. This prelate whom the united voice of his people ſtamps with the honourable name of father of his country, has rendered tribunals civil and criminal of little uſe, by cheriſhing in his ſubjects the ſpirit of equity and

forbearance, and reconciling their differences himſelf. The good Abbot is not only the healer of diviſions, but has introduced a ſyſtem of wealth and comfort to the lower claſſes by employing them in manufactures which beguile the length and counteract the ſeverity of the ſavage winters.

This prince is a conſiderable manufacturer himſelf, and carries on a very extenſive commerce in cheeſe. The profits of his trade, and his other revenues, which amount to upwards of one hundred and thirty thouſand livres, are expended in acts of beneficence and hoſpitality. Every wanderer has here his claims to protection allowed, and every viſitor finds a welcome. We ſat down to table a numerous family, compoſed of French emigrant prieſts, the monks of the convent, and occa-

ſional viſitors. The table was ſerved with plenty and hoſpitality; and the chamois, the mountain veniſon, made a part of the repaſt; but what was moſt agreeable in the entertainment, was the frank and courteous demeanour of the venerable hoſt.

Among the treaſures of the convent, the library holds a diſtinguiſhed place, and is valuable not ſo much for the number of the volumes it contains, which do not amount to more than ten or twelve thouſand, as the rarity and early date of the editions. The next valuable treaſure of the Abbot was the dairy, or repoſitory of cheeſes; for we neither heard or ſaw any thing of thoſe miſerable impoſitions on the faith and underſtanding, commonly called relicks, which had been ſo often ſhown to us in catholic churches and convents

as

as objects of ineſtimable worth, compared with which books, and even whole magazines of cheeſe, would weigh nothing in the balance. The Abbot, a man of ſenſe and literature, as well as piety, has thought it better for the happineſs of his flock to ſtrengthen their underſtanding, and amend their lives, than to add to the ſtock of their prejudices and follies.

We found the monks who formed his ſociety, and the ſtudents who receive their education in the ſeminary, were lovers of the liberal arts. For the entertainment of the latter, the Abbot has converted a portion of the upper part of the convent into a theatre. It was not in a monaſtery, placed amidſt the rocks and ſnows of Switzerland, that we ſhould have expected to find aſſembled ſo

many of the properties of Parnaſſus.

I had almoſt forgotten to mention that the Abbot had a private treaſure ſeparate from the convent, which conſiſted in great varieties of artificial flowers, and other elegant works, which were ſtowed in boxes in his apartments. Theſe were the performances of two emigrant nuns, to whom he had given an aſylum in the monaſtery, and whom he reſcued from the pains and penalties of idleneſs by this exerciſe of their talents. A part of theſe ornaments he reſerves for preſents to his female viſitors, the reſt are diſpoſed of at Lucerne for the profit of the artiſts.

The mineral productions of the mountain conſtituted another part of his treaſure;

treaſure; many of the ſpecimens were rare and curioùs; as a female, the Abbot ought to have given me a noſegay of flowers, but, thinking probably the preſent more portable, he preſented me with two very fine ſpecimens of the pureſt rock-chryſtal.

I ſhould gladly have accepted the preſsing invitation of the Abbot, and his houſehold, to paſs ſome time at the monaſtery, but one of my fellow-travellers, who is now an envoy to a German Court, and who was then on a private miſsion from the French government in Switzerland, had important engagements which compelled him to return. His preſence, indeed, occaſioned ſome little embarraſſment to part of the ſociety; the emigrants diſcovered him to be a Frenchman, but knew not in what claſs of emigrants he deſerved

to

to be ranked, while, every time he took a pinch of ſnuff, he was careful to ſlide haſtily into his pocket the lid of his box, on which was painted the emblems of liberty, and the rights of man. French politics here, as below in the world, were the principal topics of converſation. The emigrants, were loud in their invectives; but the Abbot obſerved that things were returning to order, and ſeemed more diſpoſed to ſooth the minds, and heal by gentle counſels and acts of beneficence the rankling wounds of his gueſts, than to animate them, like ſome of his brethren in Switzerland, to acts of deſperation and revenge.

I have dwelt ſo long on this mountain of angels, that it is high time to deſcend to the world. As it was found impoſsible for my fellow travellers to pro-

prolong their viſit, the Abbot inſiſted that as my engagements were not ſo preſsing, I ſhould be left in hoſtage for their return. He promiſed me books, torrents, piny foreſts, ſnows, and Glaciers in profuſion, expeditions even towards Tetlis, which raiſed its ſnowy head above the valley in the claſs of the loftieſt mountains; and the ſociety of the two French nuns, who appeared intereſting and amiable.

I found it, indeed, a difficult taſk to ſtruggle againſt my own wiſhes, and this kind and urgent invitation; but compounded at length with both, by conſenting to return to the celebration of the Abbot's feſtival, at ſome weeks diſtance, and ſtay as long as he would keep me.

This engagement I was unable to fulfil; but if I ever return to Switzerland, it is not the danger of doubling the promontory on the Lake of Lucerne, which never having paſſed without a ſtorm, I have called the promontory of tempeſts, or the fatigues of the mountain-journey, that ſhall prevent me from climbing up to Engelberg, and paying my reſpects to its venerable Abbot.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXX.

Tell's Chapel.—Lake of Zug.—Zug.—Battle of Cappel.—Government of Lucerne.—Literary Societies.

WE had now viſited every part of the Lake of the four Cantons, except the Bay which leads to Zug. On our return from Engelberg, we embarked to take a curſory view of this little Canton, paſsing in our voyage the monument erected by Raynal to the memory of William Tell, and the ruins of the Caſtle of Hapſburg, from the Counts of which name the Imperial Houſe of Auſtria takes its deſcent. On the neck of land that divides the lake of Lucerne from that of Zug, is erected a chapel on the ſpot where Tell pierced with his arrow the Bailiff Geiſler. To thoſe who think that all means againſt tyrants are lawful, this ſpot will appear the moſt ſanctified place in Switzerland;

and

and if assassination can be justified in any case, this has perhaps the greatest claims to pardon; but the dexterous aim of the archer is probably not the most laudable, though esteemed one of the most brilliant actions of William Tell.

The lake of Zug, around which "green hills lift their dewy heads," would appear grand and picturesque to an imagination not filled with the images of the lofty wooded steeps, and dark-browed rocks that bound the waters of Lucerne. The town of Zug, placed near the end of the lake, and at the foot of a mountain covered with vines and fruit-trees, has sufficient beauty of situation to charm the lover of nature; and its size, proportioned to that of the Canton, is sufficiently large for the enjoyments of society.

The

The government of the Canton is democratic, like that of the other ſmall Cantons, with the ſame advantages, and vices. Near the lake is the field where was fought the battle of Cappel, between the Reformers and the Catholics, in which the latter triumphed, and where the great enemy of the religion of their fathers, Zuinglius, fell, fighting for the cauſe of the Reformation, for which he had ſo zealouſly contended.

The government of the Canton of Lucerne, the chief of the Catholic Cantons, is purely oligarchical. There is indeed a Council of one hundred, in whom the ſovereignty is nominally inveſted; but the only efficient body is the ſenate, conſiſting of thirty-ſix members, comprehended in that Council; to whom belongs almoſt excluſively the exerciſe of the power and authority of the State. As

this body is hereditary, the privilege of governing defcends lineally from father to fon; and no doubt whatever is admitted with refpect to the clearnefs of the title. No one is rafh enough to difpute the prerogatives of this privileged clafs; and the prefent generation, and the next that fucceeds it, are confecrated, and inviolable in the eyes of every candidate for the rights of citizenfhip; who, if by the payment of enormous fums, he happily attains that honour for himfelf, muft leave the benefits to his pofterity yet unborn; fince it is only to the third generation of a citizen newly elected, that the law grants the right of being eligible to any offices, civil or ecclefiaftical, of the State. Few individuals afpire to the purchafe of thefe diftant and uncertain advantages. He who plants a tree may live to gather the fruit; but the novice citizen of Lucerne knows that his

his honours will never bloſſom for himſelf, and that probably they will never even expand for his poſterity.

The Senate being the principal machine in the State, the Grand Council is lightened of moſt of the cares of government, by its conſtant labours. In all affairs, foreign and domeſtic, it is the province of the Senate to decide; and the wiſdom of the Council is required, or diſpenſed with, according to the will of the former. There is only one hall for the Aſſembly of both bodies; and formerly, when the Senate prolonged its meetings beyond the uſual hour, the great Council waited at the door till they were admitted. This inadvertence, it ſeems, has lately been corrected; but that the diſtinction between ſenators and ſimple counſellors may not be entirely loſt, the latter, when they ſpeak, ſtand

reverentially on their legs, while the oracles of the ſenators are delivered, like thoſe of old, in a ſitting poſture.

By a happy confuſion of powers, the judicial authority is entruſted to the ſame body who form and execute the laws. As the Senate is in lawful poſſeſsion, by virtue of its office, of the titles of every proceſs that is brought before its tribunal, if the affair is important, ſufficient time is allowed to this diſtinguiſhed body, to form its opinion; and as the chief is the individual to whom the papers are ſent, if he or his friends are more immediately intereſted in the deciſion, the ſame precaution is taken for the due preparation of their opinions, before the affair is even laid before the Senate. It is unneceſſary to obſerve by what means, under ſuch a ſyſtem, a favourable, or unfavourable deciſion may be obtained. An appeal

may

may indeed be made to the great Council; but the faith of the appellant in the juſtice of his cauſe muſt be ſtrong indeed, if he expects redreſs, when the Senate againſt whom his appeal is made, aſsiſt in the reviſion of the caſe, and uſually form the majority of the Aſſembly.

While the ſenators of Lucerne take this tender care of the property of their ſubjects, they do not neglect to pay a due attention to their own. In moſt other countries, the client has permiſsion to name the counſel who is to plead his cauſe before the tribunals; but here, the paternal protection of the Senate ſteps in to the aid of the citizens, and prevents all ordinary extortions of law, by admitting no other counſellors than the ſenators themſelves. At firſt ſight, the office of Judge and Advocate may ſeem

incongruous; but who ought to be better informed of the real ſtate of a caſe than he by whom it is to be decided? Vulgar minds have alſo ſuggeſted the danger of ſome bias in the heart of the Judge in favour of his client, on account of the fees accompanying the brief, which he has previouſly accepted, as Advocate; but who will believe that the noble ſenators of Lucerne, actuated by the for-did motives of common ſouls, are capable of forgetting the higher conſiderations of juſtice.

No leſs regard is paid to the lives of their ſubjects by theſe conſcript fathers, than is ſhewn to their property. The Gothic inſtitutions of the Habeas Corpus Act, and grand, or petty juries, are here unknown. The priſoner is interro-gated, in criminal caſes, by a member of the Senate, by whom the examination

is laid before the Aſſembly, who decide in ordinary cauſes; but if it is a caſe of ſome importance, an appeal may be made to the grand Council. Before the Council paſs ſentence, it is neceſſary that the aſſent of the priſoner to the truth of the depoſition againſt him ſhould be taken; for which purpoſe, the Judge or Preſident, together with a ſmall number of the Council, repair to the priſon, to read the charges. If the priſoner acknowledges the truth of the depoſition, the affair is ſoon decided; but if he denies the facts, or heſitates to ſign his condemnation, the inſtruments of torture are prepared!

In juſtification of this practice, it is alledged that mercy and humanity require that death, of all dreadful evils the moſt dreadful, ſhould not be inflicted till the laſt evidence of crime is obtained,

which is the confeſsion of the criminal himſelf. Whether death in any caſe ſhould be inflicted, has long been a queſtion of criminal juriſprudence. France has decreed its abolition at the peace; and in many deſpotic countries this puniſhment has become much leſs frequent; but the impolicy of the barbarous uſe of torture to extort confeſsion, has been ſo admirably expoſed by the irreſiſtible arguments of the illuſtrious Beccaria, who, with the accuracy of an anatomiſt, has calculated the comparative ſtrength of the trembling nerve of innocence, and the hardened fibre of guilt, that this practice has been thrown aſide by almoſt every nation of Europe, but Switzerland!—Is ſuch a country the Temple of Liberty? and are ſuch ſacrifices offered on her altars?

There

There is no inconſiderable number of enlightened men in every Canton of Switzerland, who are anxious to ſee the abuſes of their government reformed, by reſtoring to the community thoſe privileges which are now the property of a few individuals; who are deſirous that their country ſhould deſerve the character it has long uſurped, of being the moſt free in Europe, and who wiſh to hail the return of thoſe days when literature decorated the ſoil which valour had won.

"Lucerne," Mr. Cox obſerves, "is of all places in Switzerland, that in which literature is the leaſt encouraged and cultivated." This obſervation ſeems to be confirmed by the circumſtance that this town contains not one bookſeller's ſhop; and yet at Lucerne I found a ſelect ſo-

ciety of men of letters devoting their time to thoſe reſearches which were moſt likely to prove beneficial to their country, and who, united to each other by the tie of ſympathetic taſte, uſually paſſed their evenings together, in the ſoothing enjoyments of elegant and enlightened cónverſation. While thoſe titles of which the noble ſenators of Lucerne are ſo tenacious, have ſcarcely been ever heard beyond the walls of their city, the names of Balthaſar, and Meyer, are known to every literary circle of Paris.

Although the liberty of the preſs, the palladium of all other liberty, is univerſally proſcribed in Switzerland, neither the force of authority, nor the imprimatur of a cenſor, have been able to impede the gradual progreſs of that knowledge which

which will lead to freedom unfullied by anarchy or violence, and reftore to this country its antient renown.

Trade, we are told, is under an interdict at Lucerne; and the prieſts are in poſſeſsion of nearly half the riches of the Canton. It is probably a bad thing to proſcribe commerce; and yet, its wealth has communicated no ſuperior charm to Baſil; it muſt alſo be admitted that it is unneceſſary to leave half the riches of a populous Canton in the poſſeſsion of thoſe who add nothing to its force or induſtry, but, on the contrary, are the chief inſtruments of enchaining both.

The inhabitants of Lucerne have an air of more chearful gaiety than we had elſewhere obſerved. The features of the women had here loſt the flat German phy-

phyſiognomy, and aſſumed the ſoft contour of the Madona countenance. The ladies of Lucerne are remarked for their beauty, and give an higher intereſt to their perſonal charms, by cultivating the graces of the mind.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXI.

Cabinets of Natural Hiſtory in Switzerland.—Plan of M. Meyer.—State of fine Arts at Paris.

AMONG the curioſities of Switzerland, that merit the attention of travellers, the cabinets of Natural Hiſtory hold, in the opinion of the natives, a diſtinguiſhed rank. The hiſtory of theſe cabinets, which belong to individuals, and are ſcattered in different Cantons, has been accurately detailed by one of the Bernoullis, in four octavo volumes; a conſiderable and valuable muſeum might be formed of theſe collections, if they were brought together for the ſervice of the public.

One of the moſt pleaſing monuments of topographical induſtry, is the plan in relief of Switzerland, belonging to M.

Meyer, of Arau; where we re-traced with pleaſure our journies amidſt that world of Glaciers on ſome of which no mortal foot has trod. This plan is much more extenſive than that of General Pffyffer, which embraces only the Cantons around the Lake of Lucerne, while that of M. Meyer extends, or rather is intended when finiſhed to extend, to all Switzerland. But what claims the unwearied meditation of the traveller in Switzerland, is not the productions or improvements of art, but the ſtupendous book of nature. The region where the arts may be ſtudied with the greateſt advantage is Paris.

The moſt ſplendid trophies of the victories obtained by the arms of the French Republic in Italy, are the magnificent monuments of the arts, many of which have been tranſported, or now are on their

their way, to Paris. Without pretending to decide on the policy or the right of the transfer, a queſtion which has been amply diſcuſſed, it muſt be admitted that Paris, enriched by theſe maſter-pieces of genius, may now lay claim to a more honourable diſtinction than its former boaſt of being the region of pleaſure, the emporium of elegance, and the arbiter of faſhion. Paris, arrayed in the ſpoils of conqueſt, is now become the centre of human attainments. Whatever is rare or curious in the productions of nature, magnificent in thoſe of taſte, inventive in ſcience, or precious in literature, is to be found in Paris; and what merits the higheſt eulogium is the extreme facility of admiſsion, or rather the invitation which is given to enter theſe receptacles of knowledge. Inſtead of the forbidding inſcription written over the Athenian porch, "Let no unlearned perſon enter here,"

here," the reading at Paris is, "Enter all, both learned and unlearned. The wiſe may add to their ſtores of knowledge, and the ignorant may become wiſe."

Although the complete organization of the eſtabliſhment of public inſtruction throughout the capital has not yet taken place, the foundation is ſecurely laid; and ſurely the benevolent mind of every country will exult in the idea of ſo many fellow creatures reſcued from vice and ſlavery; for ſuch are the neceſſary effects of ignorance; ſince if knowledge, as Bacon obſerved, be power, it is alſo virtue, freedom, and happineſs.

The diſſemination of inſtruction is general throughout France. Every capital of the hundred and twenty departments of the Republic has its Muſeum, Cabinet

of

of Natural Hiſtory, Botanic Garden, and Philoſophical Apparatus, and every Diſtrict or Canton its Public Library; but at Paris theſe means of knowledge are found in ſuch magnificent profuſion, that the only heſitation of the inquirer is, amidſt the ſplendid variety, what part of ſcience he ſhall chuſe.

Public Libraries are open in various parts of Paris on particular days; but the great National Library is at all times at the diſpoſition of the public. In that region of books, immenſely enriched by manuſcripts from Italy, a multitude of perſons of both ſexes range themſelves in ſilence, at a long ſuite of tables, on which implements of writing are placed, and where they are attended by the officers of the library, who are bound to furniſh them with the books they demand. The ſtudent of ſcience may repair

pair to the National Garden of Plants, where ſeveral hundred perſons attend Lectures on Chemiſtry, Natural Hiſtory, or Botany, amidſt the fineſt ſpecimens of whatever is curious in either the animal, vegetable, or mineral world. The collection of living animals is not yet very extenſive; it would have been conſiderably augmented by that of the Stadtholder, had not a French Commiſſary converted his menagerie into a farm-yard, where Indian curlews, pheaſants of Java, oſtriches, and birds of the Tropic, after being plucked of their fine feathers, ſhared the fate of common poultry, and were truſſed, ſpitted, and devoured. Happy for the camels and elephants that they were at that time out of the reach of the commiſſary's cook!

Not long ſince, the fine Cabinet of Natural Hiſtory contained a curious ſpe-

cimen,

cimen, which was the ſkeleton of the great Turenne, ſtuck up between the claſſes of monkeys and alligators. At that ſacrilegious period when the tombs of the illuſtrious dead were ravaged by thoſe cannibals, who, fatally for the cauſe of Liberty and Science, preyed ſo long on the illuſtrious living, ſome Frenchmen, penetrated with the generous feeling of national pride, ſnatched from theſe ſavages the bones of this renowned General, and placed them among theſe uncouth animals, as the ſureſt and leaſt ſuſpected aſylum at that epoch of hoſtility to man.

The moſt ſplendid monument that Paris contains, is the gallery of paintings called the National Muſeum. This gallery is formed by the whole length of the Louvre, which is about the third of a mile. The exhibition was perhaps un-

equalled when firſt opened to the public, and when it conſiſted only of the re-union of the maſters which were ſcat-tered through France; but ſince the con-queſt of the Flemiſh and Italian Schools, it may be ſaid to contain almoſt the whole of what is great or celebrated in the Hiſtory of the Arts.

The deſcription of the far-famed pieces which it now exhibits, already fills the volumes of travellers, who have thought the view of theſe precious relicks well worth a pilgrimage to the ſeparate ſhrines where they were placed; but henceforth that claſs of travellers whom Sterne de-ſcribes as ſailing and poſting through the politer kingdoms of the globe, in order to ſee ſights and look into diſcoveries, will have an eaſier taſk to perform: they need only journey as far as this vaſt Mu-ſeum, and run along the double rows of its

its gallery, hung thick with Raphaels, Michael Angelos, Carraccis, Titians, Corregios, Guidos, Rubens, Claude Lorraines, and Roſas. Thoſe who are ambitious of paſsing for connoiſſeurs, may here learn, with little trouble, all the terms of cognoſcenti, and like the director of taſte in the Vicar of Wakefield, never want reaſons for praiſing the works of Pietro Perugino.

The real lover of the arts will find ample gratification in contemplating theſe ſublime monuments of genius, this rich aſſemblage of its collected powers! And if the luxury of ſuch ſenſations is diſturbed by the ignorant comments of the vulgar, he may, by an application ſeldom refuſed, ſhare the privileged hours of the ſtudent, and indulge his feelings in the calm of ſilent meditation.

The middle part of this extenſive gallery is at preſent occupied by pieces of Sculpture. For thoſe, as well as the monuments now in their way from Italy (among which is the Apollo Belvidere) the Ground Gallery of the Louvre, which lies under that of painting, is in forward preparation. This Gallery of Sculpture will not be leſs brilliant than its ſiſter Gallery above. The French School has been long celebrated for the chiſel; and the monuments of its labours are heaped in great profuſion in various repoſitories of Paris. Theſe pieces are now to be collected together in this part of the Muſeum, of which the Italian buſts and ſtatues will form a ſplendid ornament.

While theſe delicate and more eſtimable monuments are carefully protected from the injuries of the ſeaſons, the Government has decorated the Public Gardens with

with numerous fine copies of the moſt celebrated antiques, and the Tuilleries are become a walk no leſs agreeable to the amateurs, than to the faſhionable world; and a further plan of embelliſhment is propoſed, by forming a covered Winter Garden in the Orange-walk, decorated with hot-houſe plants, and diffuſing the temperature of Spring. A regenerated ſtatue of Liberty will be erected on the Place of Concord, formerly Place de Louis XV. and a column of Victory three hundred feet in height, crowned by a coloſſal ſtatue of Fame, will be placed at the end of the Viſta leading from the Tuilleries.

Various inſtitutions are formed for the progreſs of knowledge in France, among which the Polytechnical School claims a diſtinguiſhed place. Of theſe inſtitutions, and of all that concerns the ſciences, the

members of the National Inſtitute are the guardians. Unlike moſt of the learned ſocieties of Europe, which confine themſelves almoſt excluſively to one branch of ſcience, the Inſtitute is divided into claſſes, which comprehend every department of human knowledge. The peſtilential reign of terroriſm has ſwept away many who would have been among its moſt illuſtrious ornaments; but the number left is not inconſiderable of thoſe who would do honour to any age or country. A certain portion of the revenue of the State is appropriated to the ſervice of the Inſtitute, whoſe members receive a recompenſe for their labours, which is neither adequate to their dignity, nor that of the Republic. This narrow ſtipend will no doubt be augmented at the peace; and the Republic will pay more liberally the debt ſhe owes to Literature, the parent of her exiſtence. The Government

has

has indeed obſerved the moſt reſpectful attention towards this learned body from its firſt inſtitution; and this homage, rendered to Science by Power, is among the moſt pleaſing features of its adminiſtration.

CHAP. XXXII.

Autumnal Views on the Jura.—Soleure.—View of the Chain of Alps.—Bienne.—Neufchatel.

WE had conſecrated the ſummer months to journeying amidſt the ſavage alpine ſcenery of Switzerland, leaving to the months of Autumn the view of the milder landſcapes of that enchanting country, where nature, when ſhe ceaſes to overwhelm the imagination with her greatneſs, aſſumes the ſofteſt ſmile of laviſh beauty. We had yet ſeen but an inconſiderable part of the Canton of Berne, and none of the delicious countries waſhed by the lake of Geneva, and which are eſteemed by travellers the garden of Europe.

The

The year had now

" Fallen into the ſear, the yellow leaf ;"

SHAKESPEARE.

and after ſpending two or three weeks at Baſil on our return from Lucerne, we once more croſſed the mountains of Jura. The laſt time we aſcended thoſe romantic ſteeps, they were dreſſed in all the rich gradations of colouring which belong to Autumn. The deep brown and pale yellow which overſpread in their various tints the foliage of the wooded cliffs, contraſted with the freſh ever-green of the groves of pine and fir, and the bright verdure which ſtill covered the paſtoral lawns.—The rills ſeemed to flow in clearer currents; there was a ſort of ſpirit in the air, and the whole ſcenery mingling gay and luxuriant graces, with fading forms, excited that ſoft and ſoothing melancholy which, to ſome minds, is ſo much

dearer

dearer than all that the world calls plea-
ſure.

The town of Soleure, ſituated on the Aar, in a beautiful and fertile country, contains ſeveral fine edifices, of which the new built church in the principal ſtreet, ornamented with two ſuperb fountains in front, is the moſt diſtinguiſhed. The town is fortified, and appears ſufficiently ſtrong to keep out an army of revolted peaſantry, the only purpoſe to which fortifications in Switzerland have for two or three centuries paſt been applied.

At the gate we were compelled to undergo a long ceremonial of examination, and were referred from one committee of guards to another, before we were ſuffered to enter, though our paſſports were in perfect order, and bore no

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miſchievous traces of intelligence with France. We had been previouſly told, that perſons coming from that country, except ſuch as came without paſſports, had in this town been ſubjected to inſult, and even danger; nor were we ſurprized at this intelligence, having heard from M. Barthelemy himſelf the mode of his expulſion from the accuſtomed reſidence of the French ambaſſadors at Soleure.

The government of this Canton is an oligarchy, like that of Lucerne, compoſed of a council of one hundred and one, including the thirty-five members of the ſenate who form the executive power. There is ſomething liberal in the exerciſe of privilege in this Canton compared with that of Lucerne; here the places of honour or profit are diſtributed amongſt thirty families, while

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at Lucerne the influence and principal offices of the State are confined to ten or twelve.

Although Soleure had relaxed ſomething of the ſeverity of its features towards France ſince the retreat of the coaleſced armies acroſs the Rhine, and the arrival of the Pruſsian envoy at Baſil to treat of peace, there was yet no ſuch demonſtration of the return of the old cordiality as could make even a ſlight reſidence agreeable to thoſe who were friends to the cauſe of liberty; and remaining but a ſufficient time to view the city, and its charming environs, we continued our journey to Bienne.

On the road to Bienne, which lies along the foot of the Jura, we beheld one of the grandeſt views which Switzerland

zerland had yet prefented to our admiration. In moſt of its Cantons ſome ſnowy mountain forms the back ground of the picture; but here we ſaw diſplayed in all their majeſty the whole chain of Alps from St. Gothard to the Lake of Geneva; forming one vaſt world of Glaciers, behind whoſe towering peaks Mount Blanc reared its auguſt and ſublimeſt head. Although but at the diſtance of fifty or ſixty miles, we were ſo placed that the eye could take in at one view this mighty range of mountain. The ſun lighted up the hills by which we were ſeparated from the chain of Alps long after its ſetting orb had ſunk behind Mount Jura from our view; but the ſhadowy gradations of twilight had fallen both on hill and valley, when the moſt vivid hue of the roſe from every Alpine peak reflected the ſolar beams, and fluſhed the wide hemiſphere

miſphere with one bright tint of ſplendour.

Bienne is a neat ſmall town, ſituated near the Lake which bears its name, celebrated in modern ſtory as having been the retreat of Rouſſeau, who lived for ſome time on the iſland of St. Pierre, and was compelled at length to ſeek refuge in Paris from the perſecution of the Republics of Switzerland. The French Government, in right of the poſſeſsion of the Biſhoprick of Baſil, now the department of Mount Terrible, is Sovereign of the State of Bienne; but as objects of more importance at that time occupied its attention; the great and little councils to whom the adminiſtration of State affairs belongs of right, took care alſo, during the inter-regnum, of the Sovereignty. The Mayor of the town is the repreſentative of this Sovereign, whoſe

power is merely nominal, and whoſe re-
venues are ſcarcely more than ſufficient
to pay the ſalary of his treaſurer. The
legiſlative power of the State is entruſted
to the great council, the little council
wield the ſceptre; and, as in caſe of va-
cancies, theſe two bodies name the ſuc-
ceeding members, the government is
purely ariſtocratical.

It was our good fortune to alight at
an inn of which the maſter, Mr. Wizard,
is great counſellor and treaſurer of the
State. The company at Mr. Wizard's
table, which was well furniſhed, conſiſted
of Senators of Bienne, and French emi-
grants. Mr. Wizard was deeply ſkilled
in the political affairs of Europe; and in-
ſinuated, that had his advice been fol-
lowed, matters would have been diffe-
rently arranged between the Swiſs Can-

tons

tons and France. "I have obſerved," ſaid this ſenator, "with great concern, the part which our allies have taken in this diſpute, and have highly diſapproved of the conduct of our neighbours the Canton of Berne. We," added he, "have evinced very different diſpoſitions; when every power in Europe was coaleſced againſt the French Republic, the town of Bienne took her by the hand; and ſurely thoſe who ſtruggle for liberty ought not to fail for want of aſsiſtance." As Mr. Wizard proclaimed theſe opinions before emigrants and Engliſh, there could be no hypocriſy in his ſentiments; nor can there be any impropriety in this teſtimony to his zeal.

No doubt, had his advice in favour of the French Republic been followed, he would have given his vote with alacrity

alacrity for the augmentation of her military force by the contingent of Bienne, which, I believe, amounts to fourteen men.

The journals of travellers in Switzerland are filled with complaints of heavy impoſitions at the inns, nor do they murmur without cauſe; but the ſentiments of Mr. Wizard are, no doubt, elevated in proportion to his rank; he ſcorns to impoſe upon the traveller, and his houſe is one of the cheapeſt as well as the beſt in all Switzerland. In making this declaration, I only add my feeble teſtimony to that of a diſtinguiſhed croud, whoſe names were contained in two enormous packets which he produced in order to ſhew me how many of my countrymen had been his gueſts. Each perſon at his departure had left a little certificate,

ſtating that he who ſigned it was perfectly ſatisfied with Mr. Wizard.

Old and young, patricians and plebeians, lords and commons, were all ſatisfied with Mr. Wizard; this was the burden of the ſong from perſons of all countries and conditions; I never remember to have met with ſo many uniform opinions on the ſame ſubject. We had examined a multitude of theſe teſtimonies, when Mr. Wizard, paſsing haſtily over Counts, Dukes, and Princes, ſnatched up eagerly a ſcrap of paper which he exclaimed was a certificate that he would not loſe for twenty louis. From the glow on the countenance of Mr. Wizard, and the energy with which he ſpoke, I gueſſed that it was at leaſt the tribute of an Emperor. "There," added he, throwing it with a look of triumph on the table, "there is the name of

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the firſt man in Europe." We looked to diſcover who was thus elevated in our hoſt's opinion, and read, with that ſort of perſonal pride which we feel in thoſe powers of genius that give diſtinction to our own country, the ſignature of Charles Fox.

From the ſovereignty of the French Republic, we paſſed in a few hours through a charming country, into that of the King of Pruſsia; the reſpective ſubjects of theſe two Powers were living in good harmony with each other in Switzerland, while their fellow-ſubjects on the Rhine were employed in mutual ſlaughter.

Neufchatel is pleaſantly ſituated on an ample lake, of which the waters, agitated by a ſtorm, were flufhed with deep tints of green and purple. This town

forms part of the dominions of the Pruſſian monarch, but from the privileges which it poſſeſſes, is exempted from engaging in any projects hoſtile to its own opinions or intereſt. The government of the town and diſtrict is a confuſion of powers not well defined; but it would appear from the induſtry and opulence of the inhabitants, compared with many other parts of Switzerland, together with the works that iſſued from the preſſes of Neufchatel during the French monarchy, that Pruſsian deſpotiſm did not weigh on them with too heavy an hand. Since the celebrated controverſy, which aroſe between Petit-pierre and his brethren the clergy of Neufchatel, reſpecting the eternity of hell torments, in which opinion the former was ſupported by Frederick the Great, no conteſt reſpecting prerogative or privilege has taken place.—The King, Petit-pierre, and Marſhal Keith,

with their doctrine of final ſalvation, were, after long diſcuſsion, obliged to quit the field; the clergy maintained their privileges, and the King declared that "puiſqu'ils avoient ſi fort à cœur d'etre damnés eternellement," he ſhould no longer oppoſe their determination.

CHAP. XXXIII.

Eucurſions round Neufchatel.—Morat.—Oſſuary.—Avenches.—Moudon.—Pays de Vaud.—View of the Lake and Mountains.—Lauſanne.—Geneva.

AFTER making various excurſions round Neufchatel, to the villages of Locle, Chaux, de Fond, and as far as Yverdun, we returned by the lake to Morat, immortalized for the victory gained by the Swiſs over the Burgundians and Charles the Bald, whoſe bones are preſerved, according to the quaint inſcription on the Oſſuary, by the road-ſide, as a monument of themſelves left by the invaders.

According to the hiſtorians of theſe times, this victory, though it ſecured the liberties of the Swiſs, was fatally counterbalanced by the loſs of that ſimplicity and honourable mediocrity which had hitherto

hitherto preſerved their independence.—Philip de Commines details the ſtory with his accuſtomed naiveté, and without ſuſpecting the conſequences*.

* "Si Dieu, dit l'hiſtorien, n'euſt delaiſſé le dit Duc, il n'eſt pas apparent qu'il ſe fut mis en peine, pour ſi peu de choſe, veu les offres qui lui avoient été faits, et contre quelles gens il avoit a faire, où il n'y pouvoit avoir nul acqueſt, ni nulle gloire. Car pour lors les Suiſſes n'étoient point eſtimés comme ils ſont pour cette heure, et n'étoit rien plus pauvre; et ſi oui dire à un chevalier des leurs, qui avoient été des premiers ambaſſadeurs qu'ils avoient envoyés devers le dit Duc, qu'ils avoient dit en faiſant leurs remonſtrances pour le demeuvoir de cette guerre, que entreux ne pouvoit rien gagner, car leur pays étoit trés ſterile, et pauvre, et qu'ils n'avoit nuls bons priſonniers, et qu'il ne croyoit pas que les eſperons et mords des chevaux de ſon oſt ne vauſiſſent plus d'argent que tous ceux de leur territorie ne pourroient payer de finance ſi'ils etoient pris—Mais les depouilles de ſon oſt enricherent fort ces pauvres gens de Suiſſe qui de prime face, ne connurent les biens qu'ils eurent en leur mains, et par eſpeciel les plus ignorants."

PHILIP DE COMMINES, Lib. v. Ch. i.

At Avenches, the claſsic ground of Switzerland, we went to ſee the teſſelated pavement, which was ſhewn to us by a peaſant, who has the charge of this relick of antiquity, or rather of the tobacco-leaves which overſpread it; for there they remain, in ſpite of the juſt remonſtrances of Mr. Cox. Every paſsing ſtranger may take up as many fragments as ſuits his humour of this curious pavement, which, in a country of taſte, would be preſerved with religious care. We alſo viſited the remains of the Amphitheatre in the Bailiff's Garden, the marble pillar, and other monuments which denote the former grandeur of the Capital of antient Helvetia. Similar monuments have been diſcovered in the neighbourhood of the lake of Neufchatel, particularly at Cheyres.

From Avenches, we proceeded to Moudon, which was the antient capital

of

of the Pays de Vaud, before it fell under the dominion of the Canton of Berne.—At preſent it only ſerves to yield a revenue to ſome Sovereign Burgher of Berne, who, under the name of Bailiff, lives in a fine chateau, which, perched on a rock, raiſes it ſpiral towers at Larchens, about a league from Moudon, and which once belonged to the dignitaries of the Pays de Vaud. Wherever we met with palaces or caſtles in this country, it was unneceſſary to inquire to whom they belonged, ſince the inhabitant never failed to be a Bailiff of the ſovereign Canton of Berne.

We paſſed ſome days in the Pays de Vaud, which, rich in charming paſtoral ſcenery, ſloping lawns, embowering groves, and lovely cultivated hills, crowned with the bare peak of a wooded cliff, half-veiled by cluſtering foliage, reminded me

of

of the moſt beautiful parts of England. The Pays de Vaud is not only enchanting, in its ſoft perſpectives, to the lover of nature, but fertile in every production for the ſupport or enjoyment of life.—In ſuch a country, Deſpotiſm itſelf could ſcarcely weigh heavy enough with its iron hand, to cruſh the inhabitant beneath oppreſsion. The fruitfulneſs of the ſoil keeps pace with the exactions of avarice; and the ſubject peaſant, though robbed of his rights, finds ſome compenſation in the bounty of nature. We left theſe Arcadian Vales, and aſcended the chain of hills that encircle the Lake of Geneva; where, in ſtrong contraſt to the mild picture of the Pays de Vaud, we gazed once more on rocks and mountains, rudely hanging over the oppoſite banks of the lake, and whoſe tops were whitened by new-fallen ſnow. In the back ground roſe the Alps, covered with their unva-

ried

ried ſhroud. As we deſcended the hills, we beheld the ſpacious Lake ſtretching its ample waters along the baſe of this ridge of mountains, far as the eye could reach; and our path to Lauſanne, leading along vine-covered hills, and diſplaying at one view the luxuriant charms of beauty, and the awful wildneſs of terrific grandeur, furniſhed all thoſe combinations of imagery which croud the dreams of the poet.

Probably no town of Europe is better ſituated than Lauſanne to delight the traveller by its pictureſque views, or more inconveniently placed for a conſtant reſidence. This town is, for the moſt part, either abyſs or mountain; the ſtreets communicate with each other by long flights of ſteps, down which you deſcend into what was formerly a ravin, in order to aſcend, on the other ſide, what muſt

once

once have been a precipice. Since many other ſpots might have been choſen for a city, either nearer the lake for the ſake of commerce, or higher up for defence, it ſeems ſtrange that the foundation ſhould have been laid in a place above all others the leaſt ſituated for habitual accommodation. We found Lauſanne filled with emigrants from France, and alſo from Geneva, the Jacobins of that Republic having, at the cloſe of the reign of Robeſpierre, perpetrated ſome of thoſe atrocious acts which had ſo long deſolated France.

The Republic of Geneva, by a general inſurrection in the beginning of 1789, had thrown off the chains which a deſpotic magiſtracy, ſeven years before, aided by the combined armies of France, Berne, and Sardinia, had impoſed on their fellow citizens. Although, in this inſtance,

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ſhe ſpoke the prologue to the drama of the French Revolution, which happened ſome months after, ſhe has ſince never failed to play the after-piece to all its eventful tranſitions.

Of five claſſes of inhabitants belonging to Geneva, two only, thoſe of Citizens and Burghers, compoſed the Sovereign Aſſembly, improperly called, "General Council."—The claſſes of natives, inhabitants, and houſe-keepers, enjoyed no political rights; theſe were the prerogatives only of the two former. It may be eaſily conceived that thoſe three unprivileged claſſes could not behold with indifference the eſtabliſhment and conſolidation of the French Revolution.—— They viewed its progreſs at firſt with ſecret exultation, as a ſure preſage of their own; and a ſociety at length was formed of the partizans of the new

ſyſtem,

fyſtem, under the name of the Circle of Equality, the views of this ſociety were altogether directed towards the eſtabliſhment of the juſt principles of liberty, in deſpite of the oppoſition of the citizens, in whom the excluſive ſovereignty was veſted, and alſo of ſuch of the unprivileged claſſes as were attached to the exiſting government from different circumſtances, or who had nothing to gain by a change. The demands of theſe advocates for Equal Rights had hitherto been only whiſpered; but when the invaſion of Savoy had taken place, at the cloſe of the firſt campaign, in 1792, the neighbourhood of the Republican army to Geneva, emboldened theſe patriots to make remonſtrances which had the air of authority, if not of menace. The great and little councils, finding that a refuſal or even delay under ſuch circumſtances would be attended with con-

ſiderable danger, appeared to be convinced by the arguments of the petitioners, and paſſed a decree in favour of Equal Rights, with certain ſlight reſtrictions; and in order to give this decree the ſanction of the conſtitutional form, they framed a ſketch of a law which was to be ſubmitted to the General Council.—This preamble gave great offence to the friends of Equality, who were unwilling to receive as a gift what they felt was their right. The two parties immediately became exaſperated againſt each other.—The Genevois who dreaded a Revolution, being more numerous than thoſe who wiſhed it, ſolicited the commander of the military force to beat to arms, and ring the alarm-bell, in order to awe their adverſaries into ſilence. The Syndic of the Guard, Mr. Micheli Ducreſt, to avoid the effuſion of blood, refuſed to comply with this requiſition; he not only

only invited the partizans of the government, who were on guard at their poſts in the city, to retire to their homes, but put into the hands of the leaders of the friends to Equal Rights the keys of the Park of Artillery. They were not tardy in taking advantage of this important acquiſition. On the 1ſt of December they made themſelves maſters of the place, the Red Cap was hoiſted, Trees of Liberty were planted in different quarters of the town, on the 5th the Revolution was completed, and the triumphant party named forty ſelect men, in order to organize the new ſyſtem. On the 12th of December, the Anniverſary of the Eſcaladi of 1602, Political Equality was proclaimed in the General Council; and, the 28th of the ſame month, the diſmiſſal of the great and little councils, promulgated in the name of the Deputies of the Nation, made way for two proviſional

viſional committees, with the names of Committees of Safety, and Adminiſtration; which election was confirmed, the laſt day of the year, by a ſovereign aſſembly, compoſed of both the old and newly-admitted citizens.

The Revolution being effected, the Genevois were anxious to confirm it by a conſtitution purely democratic. A National Aſſembly, compoſed of one hundred and twenty members, choſen among the citizens of both parties, opened the ſeſsion the 25th of February, 1793. At the cloſe of the year, the plan of the conſtitution was printed, and ſubmitted to the conſideration of the people, and, on the 5th of February, 1794, was accepted by the citizens aſſembled in ſovereign council. This conſtitutional edict, founded on the great principles of liberty, conſecrated the rights of man, the di-

viſion of power, and the reſponſibility of office, and though defective in many reſpects, and formed rather for a wealthy, extenſive ſtate, than a ſmall and circumſcribed republic, was gladly received by the great maſs of the people. The Genevois were anxious for the eſtabliſhment of a government which ſhould protect their perſons and properties, an advantage of which both parties had not had an equal enjoyment under the *Proviſionary Regime*, where many acts of pillage, cruelty, and even murder had remained unpuniſhed through the weakneſs or connivance of thoſe in power. The new authorities who entered on office the 13th of April, were acknowledged by the governments of Berne and Zurich, who had refuſed to correſpond with the proviſional committees; the magiſtrates were reſpected, the prejudices and hatred of the different parties appeared

peared to be extinct, and order and harmony completely reſtored, when this happy ſtate of calm and tranquillity was diſturbed by the inſurrection of the 19th of July, and the ſcenes to which it gave birth.

The preceding evening, in a numerous ſitting of the general Club of the Revolutioniſts, ſome of the leaders of the party announced a conſpiracy formed againſt the Patriots, by the *Ariſtocrates*, and the *Englués* *. On hearing this denunciation, the moſt furious of the party moved for an immediate call to arms, in order to cruſh the conſpiracy, and puniſh the traitors, while thoſe who were more moderate, contended that the meeting of the ſovereign council, which was to aſ-

* The name given to thoſe perſons who had taken no part in the Revolution.

ſemble the next day to decide on impoſing ſome urgent taxes, ought not to be diſturbed by ſuch a ſudden, and probably ill-founded alarm. While the Preſident was putting the queſtion, about thirty of the moſt vehement members ran furiouſly out of the hall, calling to arms, which gave an impulſe to others, and the whole tumultuouſly put themſelves in inſurrection.

Before day-break, revolutionary patroles had filled the ſtreets, made domiciliary viſits, and arreſted thoſe of the *Ariſtocrates*, and the *Englués*, who were the moſt ſuſpected. During the morning, the inſurgents made a proclamation, enjoining every revolutioniſt to arm for the ſafety of the country and his own; the meeting of the ſovereign council was deferred, the ſeals were put on the effects and papers of many citizens, who were im-

imprisoned or absent, various depredations were committed in the houses of individuals, both in the town and country; and all those who had taken no part in the Revolution were disarmed.

The revolutionary clubs, who corresponded at that time with the Jacobin Society in France, and who had caught the contagion of their spirit, named a military commission, composed of seven members, to organize the insurrection, leaving every civil concern under the direction of the constitutional laws, and the legal authorities. The gates of the city were instantly shut, divine worship was suspended, and many of its ministers, respectable for their age and services, were dragged to houses of confinement, where more than five hundred of their fellow citizens were heaped together during the most feverish heat of summer.

On the demand of the military committee, the insurrectionary clubs formed a revolutionary tribunal composed of twenty-one members to try the prisoners; but the sentence of death could not be put into execution till confirmed by the majority of the revolutionists. The tribunal sat publicly in one of the halls of the Hotel de Ville, and brought first to the bar those of the prisoners who were enregistered under the denomination of the chief criminals, seven of whom were condemned to die. In conformity to this decree, the revolutionists assembled in arms in one of the public walks of the city called the National Lyceum, to sanction, or annul in whole, or in part, the sentence of the tribunal. The leaders expelled from this assembly every person who was not known for a decided revolutionist, and, after this epuration, gave their votes by white

white and black balls, the former of which denoted an acquittal, and the latter death. Three of thoſe who were condemned by the tribunal were ſaved by this operation; but as they were members of patrician families, and had held the firſt places in the State, ſeveral of the revolutioniſts, heated by wine which had been plentifully laviſhed on the occaſion, exclaimed in a rage, that there was a plot to ſave the ariſtocrats who ought all to periſh. Whilſt others more moderate were endeavouring to ſilence, or perſuade them, that they ought to yield to the deciſion of the majority, a group of the moſt ſavage amongſt them withdrew from the ranks, and ran to the priſons to ſeize the ſeven victims, whom they brought *au pas de charge* into the fatal circle. The moderate party were, by this time, conſiderably diminiſhed; a ſquare battalion

was formed; the tribunal placed in the centre pronounced ſentence of death on all the ſeven, who where immediately ſhot*.

Some days after, two reſpectable magiſtrates, a financier, and a reputable tradeſman, underwent the ſame puniſhment†; but the people were not conſulted on this occaſion, becauſe at the requiſition of the revolutionary judges, the clubs had decided that no further

* The four citizens condemned by the tribunal were *Decombres*, lieutenant colonel of the regiment of Geneva, *Murrier*, *Chenaud*, and *Viviors Decor*, watch-makers:—thoſe acquitted by the people were *Cayla*, Ex-Syndic, *Prevoſt Cabanis*, procureur generale, *Derochment*, counſellor.

† The citizens who were condemned by the tribunal were *Fatio*, Ex-Syndic, *Naville*, Ex-procureur, *Andead*, a banker, and *De Lorme*, a watch-maker.

appeal ſhould be made to the nation to confirm any ſentence; but that two-thirds of the votes of the tribunal ſhould be ſufficient for ſentence of death. On the 11th of Auguſt this fatal tribunal ended its ſittings, after having condemned thirty-ſeven perſons to death, of which twenty-ſix were abſent; an hundred to baniſhment; about three hundred to impriſonment; ſome for life; others for different terms, and the remainder were diſcharged with a few revolutionary admonitions.

One of the cauſes of the inſurrection had been the want of money: the reign of terror came in aid of the exhauſted finances, and the indigent jacobins. When the clubs named the members of the tribunal, they choſe alſo a revolutionary commiſsion which declared

clared null and void every Notorial Act paſſed ſince the 18th July; ſequeſtered the goods of thoſe who were impriſoned, or who being abſent were found guilty; forbade the export of coin, goods, or plate; decreed that all ſilver furniture ſhould be carried to the Mint; that every perſon ſhould declare the ſtate of his fortune; that heavy contributions ſhould be levied on the ariſtocrats; others leſs exorbitant on the *Engloués*, and ſome ſtill more moderate on the rich Patriots. The produce of theſe taxes and ſeizures were employed for the moſt part to ſalary the revolutioniſts who had ſupported the inſurrection, the members of the military committee of the tribunal and revolutionary commiſsion. While the commiſsion was deciding on, and levying the contributions which the inſurgents had declared due

to

to the country by the enemies of the revolution, it changed its financial occupations into functions far more dreadful, and a ſecond revolutionary tribunal was ſoon after erected. For more than a year paſt a popular ſociety under the name of "*Mountaineers, Centinels of Liberty,*" had been formed at Geneva: the views of the leaders in this ſociety were to deſtroy the conſtituted authorities, and to diſorganize the revolution: a plan was diſtributed in the name of theſe Mountaineers, and amongſt the different popular ſocieties, containing amongſt other propoſitions, that of arreſting all thoſe citizens who had compoſed the Geneveſe authorities from the 28th December, 1792, to the preſent period: this project included various claſſes, from the firſt merchant to the loweſt tradeſman; theſe ultra-revolutionary propoſitions alarmed the

re-

revolutioniſts, who immediately ſhut up the club of Mountaineers, impriſoned the leaders, and put the reſt of the members under arreſt at their own houſes. The Patriots then ordered the revolutionary commiſſion to form itſelf into a revolutionary tribunal, and to do juſtice to the enemies of independence, the factions of anarchy, the ariſtocrats and *Engloués* who had eſcaped the vigilance of the former tribunal. The firſt who appeared at the bar of this new tribunal, were the Anarchiſts, and enemies of independence, leaders in the inſurrection of the 19th of July; four of whom, after being heard in their defence, were condemned to death as traitors to their country; a few members of the Mountaineer-ſociety were ſentenced to perpetual baniſhment; others to the ſame puniſhment for different periods; ſome were deprived of

their

their political rights, and the greateſt number, who had only been miſled, were diſmiſſed with a fraternal admonition. At this period a *national commiſsion* was formed; the revolutionary commiſsion was diſſolved, and was ſucceeded by a *commiſsion of liquidation*, which undertook to weigh the purſes of the Genevois, and tax them according to their weight, and the political opinions of their poſſeſſors.

The inhabitants of the country, who had ſeen nothing in the Revolution of 1792, but an exemption from taxes, refuſed with obſtinate perſeverance to pay any contribution, and concluded with giving little. A revolt in the garriſon of the town was appeaſed, and puniſhed by the breaking of two companies of cannoneers. Commerce, diſengaged by degrees from revolutionary requiſitions,

re-

resumed a free course; a part of the produce of the extraordinary taxes was usefully applied to patriotic establishments, to the advancement of the sciences and arts, and the encouragement of literature. All the titles of former citizenship, all the parchments of the privileged orders, were publicly burnt on the day of the national festival; and the petitions of numbers of citizens presented to the revolutionary clubs to obtain a revision of their judgment, were favourably heard, and justice became, as in France, once more the order of the day.

Geneva, true to its prototype, as soon as France had formed a constitution, formed or changed its constitution also; in which, however, there is this singular distinction, that, whilst a catholic country, France, admits partizans of every religion, the Jew, Mahometan, and Protestant,

teſtant, to an equal participation of rights, the Genevan ſhut the door ſternly againſt Catholics, and ſhrinks almoſt from its liberality in having admitted the follower of Luther. This narrow ſpirit of bigotry is confined to the lower claſſes of the people; and the attempts hitherto made by its more enlightened citizens to change the opinion that Catholiciſm and ſlavery are not neceſſarily connected, have been unſucceſsful. It is not unworthy of obſervation, that the great religious Reformer of Geneva, who has given his name to the moſt extenſive portion of the Proteſtant world, ſhould have rivetted the chains of religious deſpotiſm, while he became, by his political inſtitutions, the father of civil liberty in Europe. Theſe ſpots in the conſtitution of Geneva will perhaps vaniſh after a few years of independence, provided it can maintain the due balance between its attractive and

repulsive forces, when placed within the orbit of so mighty a planet as the French Republic.

Lausanne to Vevay lies along the border of the lake, which, seen from its level in the direction towards the valley from which its waters flow, to that point where they again become a river, appears like a wide arm of the sea. On the right, the dusky rocks of Chablais skirted the opposite shores, while above our path on the left, the pendant vines, though now despoiled of their purple clusters, spread their faded drapery along the lofty hills.

At the distance of a mile from Vevay, our ears were struck with sounds which we had not heard since our arrival in Switzerland. These were the Marseillois march, proceeding from a band of music,

which

which the turn of an angle of the road brought within our view, and which was followed by a numerous band of young men, who, with great good-humour and gaiety, hailed us by the long unheard ſalutations of "Bon jour, citoyens; Bon jour, citoyennes." We anſwered theſe republican compliments in the ſame ſtyle in which they were made, and concluded that this was a groupe of the new French citizens of Mont Blanc, who had croſſed the lake for the purpoſe of a feſtival. The day, alas! proved no feſtival to this gay troop, as I ſhall have occaſion to relate.

CHAP. XXXIV.

Vevay.—Chateau de Chillon.—St. Maurice.—Proſcription of French Newſpapers, and French Principles.—Torrent of Salenches.—Sion Government, and Deſpotiſm of the higher Vallais.—Revolt of the lower Vallais.—Miſerable Fate of the Inſurgents.

VEVAY is eſteemed the moſt beautiful town in the Pays de Vaud. The hills, fertile to their ſummits in corn and wine, which had hitherto ſkirted the lake, forming a rich and beautiful amphitheatre, here riſe into mountains, which gradually ſwelled at no great diſtance into part of that immenſe chain of Alps that form the ſouthern barrier of Switzerland.

Vevay is the principal port for the commerce of the Vallais, and formerly of Savoy, with the latter of which, now

forming part of the French Republic, there was no more friendly communication than could be well avoided. The country around Vevay, where Rouſſeau has placed the ſcene of his charming romance, is become claſsic ground. On our left, as we journeyed towards the Vallais, we paſſed the village of Clarens, emboſomed in trees at the foot of a mountain; farther on is the caſtle of Chillon, ſeated in the lake; over which, on the oppoſite ſide, hang the dark rocks of Meillerie. It would be hopeleſs to attempt a new ſketch of theſe enchanting regions after the glowing deſcription of Rouſſeau, which has already been ſo often detailed by the hundred ſentimental pilgrims, who with Heloiſe in hand, run over the rocks and mountains to catch the lover's inſpiration. All in nature is ſtill romantic, wild, and graceful, as Rouſſeau has

painted it; but the ſoothing charm aſſociated with the moral feeling, is in ſome ſort diſſolved. The ſoft image of the impaſsioned Julia no longer hovers around the caſtle of Chillon; which is now converted into a Swiſs Baſtile, and guarded by a ſtern ſoldiery. The tear of ſenſibility which has ſo often been ſhed over this ſpot for the woes of fiction, may now fall for ſorrows that have the dull reality of exiſtence. It is not the imaginary maternal ſhriek that pierces the ear, it is the groan of the patriot riſing from the floor of his damp dungeon that rends the heart.

We rambled through this romantic ſcenery a conſiderable part of the day, which, it being now the ſeaſon when the "teeth of the Jaman begin to whiten," had drawn quite to its cloſe before

before we reached the village of Bex, celebrated for its extenſive ſalt-works.

We had now entered the lower Vallais, that immenſe gulph which ſeparates the double range of Alps and Glaciers that divide Switzerland from Italy; and which, branching off from the maſs that forms St. Gothard, ſlightly diverge from each other for nearly an hundred miles to the lake of Geneva, formed by the Rhone that riſes at the farther extremity of the Vallais.

When we reached St. Maurice, we had attained the furtheſt limits of Swiſs territory. Here begins the government of the democracy of the Vallais. The cloſing mountains are connected by a wooden gate which locks up the Republic, and forbids all entrance to thoſe who ſhrink from examination. A bridge

of one arch thrown over the Rhone at this pafs is eſteemed a fine monument of Roman architecture. On the rocks riſing from the water is built the caſtle of the Bailiff, to whom is committed the important charge of excluding all French principles, and all French newſpapers, the Gazette of Berne excepted; this we ſaw notified by a placard ſtuck on the wall, which ſtated the various degrees of corporal puniſhment to be inflicted on thoſe who ſhould indulge themſelves in diſcuſsions on the principles of Government, or be guilty of the overt act of receiving or reading the papers.

About two leagues beyond St. Maurice, we came within the ſound of the cataract of Salenche; which, on aſcending the little eminence that concealed it from our view, we beheld pouring from an enormous height its divided

ſtreams

ſtreams which uſed to ruſh down the perpendicular rock in one broad ſtreet, producing a far ſublimer effect; but the artificer, whoſe little mill is placed near the fall, informed us, that ſome months before he had obtained permiſsion of the Bailiff, or Abbot of St. Maurice, to apply part of the torrent to his uſe, which he contrived to do by rolling rocks into the ſtream above and dividing its current.

Had the Abbot furniſhed the poor cottager with the means of directing part of the water to his mill after it had deſcended, which, with a ſmall expence he could have done, his benevolence would have deſerved applauſe; but to arreſt with profane hand the waters at their eagle-height, and turn them from their headlong pathway, was

a ſacrilegious attempt on the majeſty of the cataract, never to be forgiven.

From the town of Martinach we proceeded to Sion, the capital of the Vallais. The Biſhop's palace is pleaſantly ſeated on an eminence which commands a noble view of the ſurrounding mountains, and finely cultivated plain, through which the Rhone winds ſmoothly along.

The government of the Haut Vallais is democratic, being divided into ſeven departments, each of which ſends a member choſen by the whole body of the male inhabitants, above the age of fourteen years, to the congreſs, which is held twice a year, and is compoſed of theſe ſeven members, the Biſhop and Preſident of the Republic, who is choſen by this aſſembly for two years. As theſe deputies are named annually, and can

never

never ſwerve from the inſtructions they receive from their conſtituents, there ſeems nothing in the inſtitution that is unfavourable to liberty; but, unfortunately, the ſame vices that prevail in the democracies of Switzerland, and the Griſons, have alſo their influence in the Vallais. This liberty, ſuch as it is, belongs to the Haut Vallais alone. A rivulet that flows from the mountains at ſome little diſtance below Sion, marks the difference between the ſovereign and the ſubject.

At the cloſe of the fifteenth century the inhabitants of both the upper and lower Vallais had joined their forces to overthrow the power of the Biſhop; but quarrelling afterwards for the diviſion of the ſpoil, a bloody combat enſued, and ended in the diſcomfiture of the lower Vallais, which has remained

ſub-

ſubject ſince that period, and is governed like other ſubjects of the Swiſs Cantons, by Bailiffs. Of this ſubjection the lower Vallais is ſometimes very ſenſibly reminded by their ſovereigns of the mountains. About four years ſince, theſe Vaſſals had ſo far forgotten their allegiance, as to break out into open revolt; the Bailiff of Monthey, having thought fit to throw one of theſe ſubjects into priſon becauſe he refuſed to pay an extraordinary fine, the people of the lower Vallais conceived an opinion that they had a right to rid themſelves of both Bailiff and Sovereigns. This act of treaſon and rebellion, was, however, puniſhed in a very exemplary manner. The democrats of the higher Vallais no ſooner heard of this atrocious attempt of their ſubjects, than without deigning to uſe the military appareil of cannon, or

waiting

waiting to organize an army, they poured down from their mountains with pitchforks, ſpades, threſhing flails, and ropes, as the Syracuſans armed with whips marched againſt their ſlaves, and fell upon the inſurgents without moderation or mercy.

The fate of war hung doubtful, when the ſympathetic government of Berne, diſplaying a juſt horror at this diſloyal conduct, the poor Vallaiſans being placed between two fires, were compelled to yield unconditional ſubmiſsion; and the Chiefs of theſe new aſſertors of the rights of man, expiated their crimes againſt their irritated ſovereigns at the gallows.

We went no further than Sion, which is only the entrance of the higher Vallais, and had therefore no opportunity of contemplating the Golden Age,

which

which is ſaid to be in full bloom above. I have often admired the charming picture which Rouſſeau traces of the inhabitants of thoſe regions; but I confeſs that the knowledge of the hanging ſcene in the lower Vallais has very ſenſibly diminiſhed my reſpect for the Sovereigns of the mountain. The iron hand of oppreſsion is not the only evil that is felt by this ſubject-race; from whatever cauſes, phyſical or moral, it proceeds, a number of the inhabitants are afflicted by the moſt humiliating of all the viſitations of heaven, Idiotiſm. This ſtate, unfelt by the individual, is not even by his family conſidered as a misfortune. The poor object, whoſe ſtupid ſtare, lolling tongue, diſtorted laugh, and inarticulated ſounds, affect the traveller with horror, is, from ſome kind ſuperſtition, cheriſhed in this region as the favourite of heaven, and

ſecure

ſecure of receiving all the tender cares of humanity. Another ſpectacle of diſguſt which this country preſents, is the excreſcence on the neck, known by the name of Goitres, and which is often aſſociated with Idiotiſm. The lower Vallais, notwithſtanding the habitual indolence of the inhabitants, ſeems well cultivated wherever it is capable of cultivation. This plain is ſometimes buried beneath the overflowing waters of the Rhone, which, when ſwollen by the torrents, diſdain other ſhores than the chain of mountains which bounds the country, but whatever may be the national or moral defects of this region, the inhabitants ſeem to feel a ſtrong perſuaſion that they enjoy the peculiar favour of the Supreme Being, and have expreſſed this ſentiment by inſcribing from the pſalms, on the portal of the town-houſe, in broad letters, " The Lord

loveth

loveth the gates of *Sion* more than all the tabernacles of Jacob."

We had intended, on our return to Martinach, to viſit the Fathers on the ſummit of the great St. Bernard, but were prevented by hearing that a conſiderable quantity of ſnow had juſt fallen; which, according to our hoſt's information, would require two or three days previous treading by other paſſengers, before we ought ourſelves to aſcend. This honeſt Vallaiſan amuſed us with a long hiſtory of the Lords and Dukes whom he had led acroſs thoſe lofty regions; and, in order to inſpire us at once with reſpect and confidence, told us he had even conducted a prince of the blood-royal of England, and the King of Pruſsia.

Nothing

Nothing alarmed us more during the latter part of our travels in Switzerland than intelligence of the intimacy of our inn-keeper with the great. We had already been tolerably taxed at Bellinzone in conſequence of the magnificent ideas of expence which our landlord had acquired by conducting the charming Ducheſs of Devonſhire over St Gothard. We were perfectly aware that the imperial honours and trophies which bloomed around our hoſt at Martinach, portended no good to our plebeian purſes, and therefore, without waiting till the ſnows were hardened, we ordered our horſes and returned to Vevay.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXV.

Fribourg.—Romantic Situations.—Government, and Tyranny of the Canton.—Revolt of the People.—Miſerable Fate of the Inſurgents.

WE paſſed the laſt fine days of autumn on the delightful banks of the lake of Geneva, and after various excurſions in the Pays de Vaud, returned by the Canton of Fribourg to Berne.

The general aſpect of this country preſents inexhauſtible beauties to the lover of landſcape; but no part of it is more romantic than the town and neighbourhood of Fribourg itſelf. We had imagined that the firſt inhabitants of Lauſanne had ſelected the moſt inconvenient ſpot in the country on which to build their city; but found that the genius of the ancient Fri-

burghers

burghers had far ſurpaſſed them in this ſpecies of choice. A ſmall part of the town is built on level ground, the reſt is perched among rocks and cliffs, forming an aſſemblage of the moſt groteſque ſituations. The houſes are in general ſpacious, and well built; many of the public edifices are dedicated to religion, this Canton being eminently devout and catholic. The Cathedral is remarkable for its ſolidity and elegance; but the town, however agreeable to the paſsing traveller from its pictureſque ſituation, wears a ſolitary and chearleſs aſpect.

The government of Fribourg, like thoſe of Lucerne and Soleure, is a confirmed ariſtocracy. The power is centered in the hands of a council of two hundred, who, with various diviſions, and ſubdiviſions of authority, hold the ab-

ſolute ſovereignty. Some modifications were made in their original conſtitution fifteen or ſixteen years ſince, when the inhabitants of the Canton, irritated at the various depredations committed on their perſons and properties by that portion of the ſovereign called Bailiffs, aſſembled together and beſieged Fribourg itſelf.

It is ſomewhat remarkable, that in a long and varied excurſion through Switzerland, a country which has been ſaid to produce Arcadian wealth and happineſs to the lower claſſes, we ſhould ſcarcely have paſſed over a territory which had not been the ſcene of a revolt.

The inhabitants of the Canton of Fribourg, like thoſe of the lower Vallais, had not to ſtruggle with their own ty-

rants

rants alone; the ſovereign council cooped within its walls, might have been compelled to capitulate to its ſubjects, had not the ſympathetic ſovereign council of Berne, ſtruck again with horror at this unparalleled and ſacrilegious outrage committed againſt their ally, aſſembled inſtantly its forces and marched to their relief. The inſurgents were of courſe reduced to reaſon. The chiefs ſaved themſelves from the ſhame of a public execution by throwing themſelves with deſperation upon the bayonets of the ſatellites ſent to apprehend them; and various puniſhments were inflicted on the reſt. The French miniſtry kindly lending its aſsiſtance towards the preſervation of regular governments in Europe, although it had at that period diſcovered a different policy with reſpect to America, condeſcended to become the public executioner of the vengeance of

the Fribourg-magiſtracy, and ſent their victims to the gallies, whence they were releaſed by order of the firſt National Aſſembly.

The inſurgents being thus ſeverely puniſhed, it is natural to ſuppoſe that the wrongs of which they complained were totally diſregarded. Some ſmall changes were made in their conſtitution that gave a greater extenſion of power to thoſe families in the ſovereign council who poſſeſſed little or none previous to this inſurrection. To them the rebellion proved of advantage; but the people were left in the ſame ſubject ſtate, and were permitted, according to a received opinion among the privileged orders of the preſent day, to know nothing of the laws but to obey them.

CHAP. XXXVI.

Arrival at Berne.—Berne.—Government.—Mode of Election.—Authorities.

ON our arrival at the gates of Berne, we were queſtioned with ſtern ſeverity reſpecting our country, our names, our profeſsions, whence we came, whither we were going, and above all, what were the motives of our viſit. Nothing can be more calculated to deſtroy all impreſsions of Swiſs freedom than this abſurd kind of police, which has ſo completely the air of deſpotiſm, and which is particularly diſagreeable to an Engliſh traveller, who recollects that in his own country, ſtrangers from every quarter of the globe are received without inquiry or diſtruſt; and are not ſubject to the impertinent interrogations of officers civil or military. The town of Berne, although the capital only

of a Canton, may, from its elegance, rank with the capitals of extenſive States; but the public buildings, beautiful walks, and ſubline proſpects of this city, have often been deſcribed.

The French Revolution has had a conſiderable influence on the political concerns of Berne. The ſovereignty of this Canton, like that of the other ariſtocratical Cantons of Switzerland, is centered in a great council, a ſenate, which is a diviſion of the former, and of magiſtrates choſen out of this latter body. The great council, called the two hundred, is in abſolute poſſeſsion of the ſole and undivided authority of the ſtate, the immediate exerciſe of which is committed to the ſenate, compoſed of twenty-ſeven members. The vacancies in the ſenate are filled up by the great council, as thoſe which take place among the members of this

this body are filled up by individuals, chosen principally among the burghers of Berne. The power of the government of this Canton is the least limited of any in Switzerland. In the great and important interests of the state, both foreign and domestic, such as levying taxes, or making war and peace, the citizens of Lucerne, Fribourg, and Soleure, assemble to deliberate and decide; but at Berne nothing is less sovereign than the people, to whom, in no case, is any appeal made, either for approbation or authority. All places of honour, authority, or profit, belong exclusively to seventy-six families of Berne, of whom the great council is composed; but as some of the families who possess those vast and important privileges, furnish twelve, fourteen, and even twenty members, it is found that seventeen families share at present the majority of votes.

In the ſpace of ten years, a vacancy in the council of ſeventy or eighty members takes place by death. At this period, an electoral aſſembly, conſiſting of the great officers of ſtate, the ſenate, and ſixteen members of the great council whom it names, proceed to the important nomination. The choice of the ſtate-officers, and the ſenate, may be ſuppoſed to have been long fixed on the members of their own families, but who ſhall be the happy mortal on whom the choice of the yet unelected, and unknown *ſixteeners* ſhall fall? If the ſixteener has a ſon of full age, the buſineſs is of courſe decided; but if he be only bleſſed with a daughter, hiſtorians relax from their dignity to deſcribe with what ardour of paſſion twenty aſpiring youths, who, till that eventful moment, had gazed upon the nymph without emotion, become ſuddenly enamoured of her charms. It muſt indeed

be allowed, that marriages founded on that obſolete ſcheme of happineſs ariſing from congenial character, and ſympathy of ſoul, and diſdaining all views of intereſt or ambition, are quite as remote from the ſpeculations of the young men of other great cities, as from thoſe of Berne. The only peculiarity in this inſtance, is, that the courtſhip begins and ends in the ſpace of four days, that being the interval between the election of the *ſixteener* by the council, and his nomination of his daughter's favoured lover; who immediately becomes a ſubſtantial portion of the ſovereign, incumbered only with the ſupplement of a wife.

Mr. Cox mentions, that in his firſt viſit he found the people of Berne by no means ſo well informed as thoſe of the other Cantons of Switzerland; but that the young Burghers, in order to acquire a know-

a knowledge of the art of governing, had formed a ſociety called the *External State*, compoſed of a council, ſenate, and officers of every rank; and that all that was done by their fathers, who held the real power, was imitated by their aſpiring ſons. The offices alſo of profit were not forgotten, and Bailiffs were named to preſide over the ruins of old caſtles that are ſcattered through the Canton, in order to prepare their governors for the enjoyment of thoſe ſplendid Bailliwicks which are in good repair in their neighbourhood.

In his ſecond journey, made ten years afterwards, Mr. Cox congratulates himſelf, and his readers, that rouzed from their lethargy, the magiſtrates had ſent to London to purchaſe inſtruments of experimental philoſophy, and had bought a building for the reception of books. Theſe

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wife regulations would no doubt, in due time, have produced their proper effects. Science would by degrees have infuſed its benignant rays, and the elegance of literary acquirements would at length have baniſhed the barbarous dialect of their theological ſchool, hitherto the moſt cultivated branch of their public education.

But the ample page of a new volume having now unrolled to their eyes its rich ſtores of political knowledge *, we ſhall probably no longer ſee theſe young patricians toiling through this infantine probation in the art of government, the juvenile mimics of great and little councils, Ammans, Avoyers, Grand

* " But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,
" Rich with the ſpoils of time did ne'er unroll."
GRAY'S ELEGY.

Sau-

Sautiers, Seizeniers, Bannerets, and Bailiffs.

Notwithſtanding the chief magiſtracy in every department of the ſtate is excluſively choſen among the members of the ſenate, we are informed by Mr. Cox, that this body is far from enjoying the abſolute authority with which other ariſtocratical ſenates of Switzerland are inveſted; and that the great council is in a continual ſtate of watchfulneſs over its ſteps; that although ariſtocratical conſtitutions are often above all others the moſt oppreſsive to the people, who inſtead of one deſpot, are governed by an hundred tyrants, Berne, and all the ariſtocracies of Switzerland, are an exception to this rule; that nothing is more wiſe and more moderate than the ſpirit of their governments, and nothing more remote from arbitrary power, than the ſcrupulous attention

tention with which they reſpect the privileges of their ſubjects.

To this teſtimony may be added that of Mr. Burke, who aſſerts, that the Republic of Berne is one of the happieſt, moſt proſperous, and beſt governed countries on earth.

Such were the general ideas entertained of the ſtate of Liberty in Switzerland, before the event of the French Revolution. Since that period, an hoſt of facts are cited to prove opinions of a very different complexion. It is now aſſerted, that the freedom of Swiſs governments has been the ſubject of eulogium only becauſe compared with the other Republics of Europe; the name beſtowed on the ſmall number of oligarchies, the moſt conſiderable of which have lately diſappeared; the inhabitants of Switzer-

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land enjoyed relative advantages; as the glow-worm becomes a luminary when all around is darkneſs. This important queſtion is at preſent not only the theme of much animadverſion in France, but of keen enquiry amongſt the diſcontented ſubjects of Berne in the Pays de Vaud.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVII.

Reclamations of the Pays de Vaud.—Uſurpation and arbitrary Conduct of the Canton of Berne.—Diſcontent of the Nobles.

THE inhabitants of the extenſive and delightful country of the Pays de Vaud have long ſince diſcovered in the reſearches of their hiſtory, that formerly they enjoyed the benefits of a free conſtitution, which they aſſert was maintained in all its purity, and reſpected by their princes, till the epoch of the junction of their territory to the Canton of Berne, in the year 1536. They inſiſt, that the rights inherent in the aſſemblies of the States were inconteſtible proofs of the liberty of the people; that the Princes of the Houſe of Savoy were little more than their nominal chiefs; and that when their authority was transferred to the Cantons of Berne, and Fribourg, it was ex-

prefsly ſtipulated that this country ſhould retain all the privileges which it then poſſeſſed. Hence ariſes the concluſion, that theſe Cantons ought not to pretend to the exerciſe of any other prerogatives, than thoſe which belonged to their princes, and that the government ought to be held by no other tenor, than it was held at the epoch of the treaty.

As the Government of Berne has been far from admitting the juſtice of theſe claims, it may be conjectured, that various are the acts of illegal authority of which theſe ſubjects have had to complain. The firſt blow given to the conſtitution of their country, ſay they, was the diviſion of the Pays de Vaud between the two Cantons; which, by deſtroying the unity of their government, prevented the convocation of the ſtates. In order to root out ancient prejudices and attach-

ments,

ments, after this firſt great diviſion had taken place, various ſubdiviſions were made of the government of diſtricts; and the ſingle Bailiff, or repreſentative of the Duke of Savoy, with very limited power, was quartered out into twenty-nine ſovereign Bailiffs from the Cantons of Berne, and Fribourg.

The people of the Pays de Vaud aſſert, that, in conſequence of this diſorganization of their conſtitution, their governors have inſtituted the moſt illegal and arbitrary cuſtoms; that they have made military contracts with the various princes of Europe for troops which are annually recruited from the Pays de Vaud; the command of which is monopolized by the patrician families of Berne; that the militia of the country has not only been raiſed and organized, without its permiſsion, but in ſeveral inſtances has

been made the inſtrument of the vengeance and tyranny of their governors, or the Cantons their allies; and that the lucrative civil employments which were originally but few, inſtead of being diſtributed as formerly, among the citizens of the country, are now confined to the ſeventy-ſix reigning families of Berne, and increaſed at pleaſure according to their wants or their avarice.

Heretofore, they continue, the States of the Pays de Vaud made treaties of alliance offenſive and defenſive with the neighbouring powers. Payerne, Avenche, the capital of antient Helvetia, and the Republic of Lauſanne, have ſucceſsively concluded treaties of alliance with Berne, and but ten years previous to their junction, were ſtyled, according to the letter of thoſe treaties, their good friends, and dear neighbours. This ſentiment of friend-

friendſhip, and good neighbourhood, has indeed, long ſince, given place to a more intimate connection of another kind, though with fewer feelings of reciprocal affection.

Theſe patriots ſeem to have no ſuch clear perception of the benefits which have reſulted to their country from this connection, as the hiſtorian of the reformation *, who with ſome naiveté, obſerves to the good people of Lauſanne, "that although what were called regal rights, ſuch as the right of pardon, of coining, of raiſing troops, and other acts of ſovereignty and independence, were tranſferred to Berne: yet as the treaſure of the cathedral, and the epiſcopal archives were alſo tranſported thither, after due confiſcation of the eſtates of the clergy,

* Abraham Ruſchat, abregé de l'hiſtoire eccleſiaſtique de Pays de Vaud, Vol. v. p. 667.

a great door was opened to the inhabitants of Laufanne to come to the truth; and that they ought to rejoice in the advantages they received in return for thofe temporal treafures, by the eftabliſhment of the Reformation, advantages infinitely precious, as they refer to the life to come."

The indignant patriots of the Pays de Vaud, date the evils of which they complain from this period, which they farcaſtically call the "bleſſed reformation;" which, by dividing the opinions of the people, funk them more eaſily into fubjection. They alſo tell us, that the eccleſiaſtical benefices of their country were ſecularized to make ariſtocratical benefices; that * the ſacred vaſes, the ſaints of

* The decrees of the National Aſſembly declaring the eſtates of the church the property of the nation, which raiſed againſt them from the proteſtant governments

of ſilver and gold, the precious decorations of the epiſcopal church, and of their

ments in Europe, for the catholics were better informed, the cry of ſacrilege and impiety was no where more ſeverely cenſured than at Berne. Dr. Cart amuſes himſelf with imagining the tenor of the converſations reſpecting theſe atrocious acts of injuſtice, that ſometimes paſſed between the French emigrant Biſhops and the Bailiff of Lauſanne, the preſent poſſeſſor of the epiſcopal palace, in right of ſuch ſacrilegious confiſcations at the Reformation; with this difference, that the eſtates of the Church in France were appropriated to pay the debts of the Nation, while here they were conſecrated to form revenues for private families, who were ſtrangers to the country.

Among the victims of the Reformation in the Pays de Vaud, was the rich Prior of Romainmoitiers. He had ſome other poſſeſſions in Franche Comté, and fled thither, when a Burgher of Berne, as Bailiff, took poſſeſſion of his eſtates. Two hundred and ſixty years after, the French Revolution leads his ſucceſſors to ſeek refuge in Berne. Finding the government petrified with horror at the atrocious acts of the Revolution, and particularly thoſe which regarded the

their monaſteries, were tranſported to Berne; and that thoſe offerings which the piety of their anceſtors had conſecrated to God, but which the pious hiſtorian of the reformation calls ſpoils from Satan, were converted into long chains of gold, to decorate the perſons, as the

Church, the Abbé Petit Jean, obſerved, that they could give no proof more convincing of their deteſtation, than by ordering the preſent Bailiff who happened to be a General, to vacate a ſeat which belonged in right to a monk. The Abbé gained permiſsion to examine the archives of his houſe, which were tranſported to Berne; and finding charters which proved his right to the priory, whilſt he was looking for other documents, he had the ſimplicity to write a pamphlet to prove that the Government had no right to deprive the Church of the eſtates of his priory, or to appropriate them to its own ſervice. The Chancellor of Berne, atteſted the conformity of the copies to the original; but as to reſtitution, the Government ſtill continued exceedingly indignant at the atrocious decree of the National Aſſembly, which had forced the Abbé to leave his priory in Franche Comté.

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other precious effects of the church had been taken for the uſe, and now remain heir-looms of patrician families. They complain how little they have gained by exchanging a Bailiff, for a Biſhop; a Burgher, for a Prince; the miniſters of their religion, and their convents of pious veſtals, conſecrating their holy lives to the ſervice of heaven, for the diſsipation and luxurious domination of arrogant uſurpers.

It is no more true, however, as the preſent writers in favour of the liberty of the Pays de Vaud, pretend, that the true cauſe of the zeal of the reformers of Berne, is to be found in the rich ſpoils of the church, which they meditated ſeizing and tranſporting to their city, than it is true that the ſublime effort which effected the French Revolution, had, as ſome aſſert, its origin in the delirious ambition of demagogues. Both the Re-

formation and the Revolution were founded on principles more generous than the gratification of fordid or felfifh paſsions, although theſe noble cauſes have been ſometimes ſullied by the conduct of their reſpective adherents.

It is worthy of remark, that the diſciples of the Romiſh church diſcovered no leſs abhorrence of the innovations at that period, than the deſcendants of the reformers of Berne feel for the reformers of the preſent day. Luther, and the Reformation, were then objects of no leſs horror, than are now the French Propagande, and the Rights of Man. Only ten years before the junction of the Pays de Vaud to Berne, the ſtates of the former country aſſembled at Moudon, within a few leagues of Berne, decreed, that if any one ſhould buy any book, or propagate any doctrine of that curſed and

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diſloyal heretic, Martin Luther, " he ſhould, in caſe of hardneſs and obſtinacy, be burnt alive, with the books, if ſuch were in his poſſeſsion."

The government of Berne is accuſed not only of having deprived the Vaudois of their liberties, but of having drained them of their money, by extorting arbitrary contributions under the moſt frivolous pretences; it appears from theſe calculating patriots, that the families who compoſe the Council of two hundred, being in poſſeſsion of all the lucrative offices of the ſtate, among which are ſixty Bailliwicks, ſhare, in the ſpace of ſix years, a profit of upwards of ſix millions of livres, which, with other employments, yielding four millions more, make up ten millions, to be divided amongſt theſe families, independent of the ſalaries ariſing from their offices at Berne.

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In addition to theſe proconſular endowments, of which, according to the uſual rate of compenſation for ſervices to governments, there is perhaps not much reaſon to complain, and on which the celebrated Haller was too ſevere, when he aſſerted that " the treaſures of the Republic were become the private purſe of the patrician," *ſocages*, *lods*, *droits de main-morte*, *guet*, *et garde*, *corvées*, and other taxes, admirably calculated, as Boileau ſaid of thoſe of Lewis the Fourteenth, to impoveriſh ſubjects, and enrich dictionaries, weigh heavy on the Pays de Vaud, and have occaſioned murmurs ſo loud and frequent from the Communes, that the Burghers of Berne, at the epoch of the French Revolution, promiſed that theſe remonſtrances ſhould be taken into due conſideration.

In anſwer to the defenders of the right of the abſolute government of Berne over the

the Pays de Vaud, from its being a conquered country, theſe Vaudois maintain that ſuch conqueſt was never effected. They aſſert that when the Duke of Savoy, in violation of the treaty of 1530, called the Treaty of St. Julian, which was formed to guarantee Geneva from future invaſion, had again taken arms, the government of Berne found the Pays de Vaud faithful to its alliance; not only renewing the treaty at the moment when war was declared by this government againſt the Duke of Savoy, their nominal Sovereign, but zealous in ſupporting the cauſe for which the conteſt took place. They contend, that, inſtead of oppoſing the projects of the government of Berne, they had eſpouſed its intereſt with warmth; without ſuſpecting that their confederation againſt a faithleſs Prince would have been conſtrued by their ally into

into a conqueſt over themſelves; that even if the final expulſion of the Duke could be deemed a conqueſt of his rights, as Protector, the privileges of the ſtates, which were at all times independent of his power, could not by this event be annulled.

There are other readings in hiſtory reſpecting this event. It is acknowledged that the vexations exerciſed againſt the Genevans by the Duke of Savoy, had afforded a juſt pretence for the interpoſition of the Canton of Berne; but that at the time of this pretended conqueſt, the Duke was too buſily employed in reſiſting the invaſion of his ſtates by Francis the Firſt, to think of acting the oppreſſor with reſpect to Geneva. The occaſion was nevertheleſs too favourable to be omitted by Berne; the Pays de

Vaud

Vaud became abſolutely dependent on the will of its new Protector; and Geneva would have ſhared the ſame fate, had it not redeemed its independence at the expence of its purſe.

It is moreover contended, that as the conſtitution of the Pays de Vaud was never renounced by the inhabitants of the ſtate, or annulled by any decree of the Cantons, admitting ſuch decrees to have had any authority, the preſent ſubjects of the government of Berne are authoriſed to inſiſt on the re-eſtabliſhment of the antient conſtitution, and demand the convocation of the ſtates, as their only lawful repreſentatives.

This diſaffection of the Pays de Vaud, it appears from the account given by Mr. Cox, exiſted twenty years ſince. "The

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exclusion," he observes, "of the nobility of the Pays de Vaud, and of course of the other inhabitants, from any share in the administration of the state, occasioned so great a discontent with the mild and equitable government under which they lived, that the greater part of the upper classes were very willing to change their republican, into a monarchical constitution." It is not easy to judge of the mildness and equity of a government, where the majority would wish to get rid of their republican servitude, in order to enjoy monarchical liberty. It appears that the true rendering of the passage, as well as the true interpretation given to the discontent, should be, that on account of the vexations to which they were compelled to submit, instead of wishing to turn their republican into a monarchical constitution, they would be

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happy to find an opportunity of changing their oligarchy into a representative republic*.

* In citing this fact of the discontent of the inhabitants of the Pays de Vaud, I have made use of the French translation of Mr. Cox's Tour, by M. Ramond, printed in Paris in 1781. Having consulted the translation of the Second Tour, printed in Paris, in 1790, not having the means of consulting the original, I found that this important fact respecting the Pays de Vaud is omitted. As Mr. Cox is always cited as an authority, it is probable that the translator in this instance, has been unfaithful; for as Mr. Cox informs us in his preface, that he has not only compared and examined all he had before written, and read every critique on his former work, but had also employed the most distinguished characters in politics and literature in each principal town to correct his errors, it can scarcely be suspected that any grave senator of Berne would have drawn his pen across his former account of the seditious spirit of the Pays de Vaud, as an error; or that so accurate an historian would have left unnoticed the increase of that spirit of discontent, the existence of which he had already mentioned, and which has risen to so great a height as by its effects to menace even the existence of government.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

State of the Peaſantry and Manufactures in the Canton of Berne.—Domeſtic Coalitions.—Arts of Government. Diſcontent of the People of the Pays de Vaud.—Celebration of the Anniverſary of the French Revolution. Revolutionary Tribunals.

THE adminiſtration of the governments of Switzerland have been repreſented as more mild and forbearing in general than other governments of ſimilar conſtruction. Although ſeditions have frequently been puniſhed with great ſeverity, yet the implicit obedience of the ſubject never fails of being rewarded by the paternal protection of the ſtate, the members of which, ſince the event of the French Revolution, have earneſtly inculcated the doctrine, that happineſs is to be found rather in tranquillity, than in the turbulent freedom of equal rights.

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This language is ſaid to have lulled a great part of the peaſantry into the perſuaſion that there is always a ſufficient quantity of liberty where there is peace. The peaſantry in every country is the claſs leaſt given to inquiry; they are affected by no events that do not immediately intereſt themſelves, and are therefore the laſt to entertain the ſpirit of revolutionary enterpriſe; unleſs when driven to deſpair, which has ſometimes been the caſe, by the rapacity of their proconſular governors.

The inhabitants of towns, on the contrary, who are better informed, who have nicer feelings, and a more intimate knowledge of the events that are paſsing in the world, are more quick-ſighted in guarding againſt abuſes and encroachments; and from frequent aſſociation are

more prepared to take advantage of every favourable circumſtance that may offer to correct them.

In ſome parts of Switzerland the peaſantry enjoy a certain rank in ſociety above the peaſantry of other countries; and though they have no rights as citizens, poſſeſs ſome privileges, ſuch as that of bearing arms, on which they ſet no little value. In the German part of the Canton of Berne, this claſs, by which is underſtood not merely labourers, but the inhabitants of the country in general, known in England under the name of yeomanry, being particularly favoured by the government, are taught to look up to their excellencies of Berne with reverential awe and reſpect.

The ſolicitude of the government for the welfare of its ſubjects is, how-

ever, extended to few other claſſes. The manufacturer, leſs docile than the peaſant, is far from holding an equal ſhare in its affection. There is a ſpirit in that claſs in all countries more favourable to inquiry, and conſequently more hoſtile to unconditional ſubmiſſion; while, therefore, the peaceful labourer of the glebe enjoys a kind of privileged protection, every prudent method has been adopted to dry up the turbulent ſource of national wealth which ſprings from manufactures or commerce.

Although the peaſantry form a very reſpectable body of auxiliaries, the government, ſince the event of the French revolution, have not been inattentive in framing other alliances, in order to ſtrengthen their authority among their ſubjects.

The nobles of the Pays de Vaud, who, previous to the year 1782, had been flattered by the proſpect of an acceſſion at ſome future period to a participation of the ſovereign power, and who ſince that epocha had loſt every hope of raiſing themſelves above the mechanic and the peaſant, were, on the event of the French Revolution, called to ſhare in the honours of the State, by a decree that whenever five of the patrician families became extinct, the void ſhould be filled up by three families taken from the German, and two from the French part of the Canton. This admiſsion to the dignity of the burgher is followed by no ſolid patrician benefit, ſince none of the newly elected members can obtain any profitable employment for the ſpace of fifty years; but it was yet believed, that the hope of this ſplendid elevation, al-

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though it muſt be confined to a few, would have ſufficient influence to conciliate the whole. Having attempted to form this truce with the nobles, the government faithful to the long eſtabliſhed maxim of dividing and ruling, is ſaid to have fomented differences amongſt its ſubjects, by infuſing into the peaſantry of the Pays de Vaud, a ſalutary jealouſy of their own municipal authorities, who, it was inſinuated, were likely to aſſume a dangerous influence, from which nothing could reſcue the former claſs but their ſtedfaſt adherence to the ſupreme government.

Thus with conſummate ſkill have theſe ſagacious burghers ſteered their political bark amidſt the ſtorm of revolutionary principles, which breaking looſe from France, has inundated all Europe; yet, notwithſtanding all the arts of

courteſies, and diviſions, thoſe principles of independence which are implanted in the human heart, and know no geographical boundaries, have overleapt the dyke which ſeparates Switzerland from France; and the diſcontents of the Pays de Vaud have kept pace with the increaſing ſpirit of general liberty.

When the French who had long been the ridicule of Europe for their boaſted attachment to the perſon and authority of their deſpotic monarchs, had ſhaken off this prejudice, and become clamourous for rights which they had ſo lately learnt to value, the Reformers of the Pays de Vaud, whoſe diſreſpect for their governors had been reſtrained only by the fear of their power, thought that the auſpicious moment was arrived when they might venture to ſuggeſt the expediency of a review

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of their conſtitutional privileges. The commune of Morges, in 1790, addreſſed a memorial to this effect, on occaſion of ſome municipal abuſes, to the patricians of Berne, and in juſtification of their claims cited the charters of Lewis of Savoy, Baron of Vaud, of Iſabella of Chalons, of Amadeus the fifth, the ſixth, the ſeventh, and onwards, of Philiberts, and Charleses, to prove the validity of their pretenſions.

The frowns of the government, at the diſplay of ſuch muſty titles, ſomewhat chilled this patriotic ardour; but the flight of Lewis the XVIth to the frontier having been celebrated by feſtivals, both civil and religious, at Berne and Fribourg, the Patriots of the Pays de Vaud fondly believed that it would be conſidered as no infraction of their allegiance, if they commemorated with

civic rejoicings the anniverſary of the memorable 14th of July. This meeting was publicly advertiſed; and, although the agents of government, it is aſſerted, endeavoured to prompt the aſſembly to indiſcretions by exaggerated alluſions and propoſitions, the day paſſed in tranquillity: patriotic toaſts were drank: French airs were ſung; and the hat, the ſymbol of Swiſs liberty, affixed on all the public monuments of the State, was paraded with univerſal acclamation.

This commemoration, which took place at the ſame time in many towns of the Pays de Vaud, gave ſerious alarm to the government. There was no poſitive law againſt feſtivals; but the celebration of the 14th of July was an event too big with conſequences to be paſſed over without animadverſion; and it was judged neceſſary to cruſh the

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progreſs of theſe ſeditious propenſities. Accordingly, on the firſt of September following, a ſpecial tribunal, compoſed of four patricians of Berne, under the name of the high commiſsion, was ſent into the Pays de Vaud, attended by a numerous military train, to bring the offenders to trial.

They had flattered themſelves that the laſt wreck of their liberty, the rights of criminal judicature, would have been held inviolate, and remembered that under the protection of the prince of Savoy, when any conteſt aroſe between the inhabitants and their chief, he was compelled to ſubmit to the deciſion of their tribunals.

The government of Berne had, indeed, already betrayed ſymptoms of a diſpoſition to ſeverity, when on the accuſation,

tion, and by order of the tythe-gatherer, a venerable paſtor of a church had been ſent to the priſon of Berne, on the charge of high treaſon, for maintaining before his conſiſtory that potatoes were not wheat, and therefore not titheable; but, although a reclamation againſt taxes might with an appearance of juſtice be conſtrued into treaſon, ſince it was a ſeditious oppoſition to ſovereign authority, the celebration of a feſtival which thouſands of their countrymen were, as an act of duty and obedience, celebrating at the ſame time * in France, would ſcarcely, they had imagined, be ſo miſinterpreted.

Cannon charged with grape ſhot, and planted at the end of their principal ſtreets; the houſes of the Patriots converted into barracks for the military,

* 14th July, 1791.

and

and the arbitrary orders iſſued for arreſts, ſoon taught the inhabitants of Lauſanne that their ſovereign had no taſte for ſuch compliments to the French nation ſo near their own territory. In vain the people of the Pays de Vaud inquired what was the crime of their newly invaded country? Had they been in inſurrection? Had they taken arms againſt the burghers of Berne? Had they diſobeyed any of their orders? Had they ſhewn any marks of diſreſpect to their bailiffs? Had they ſent to their faithful ally of three hundred years, deputations of congratulation like the popular ſocieties of the Engliſh nation, heretofore, their natural enemies? None of theſe extravagancies had they committed. Something indeed, like a ſpirit of inſubordination, though not to the extent of the incredulity of the paſtor of Mezieres, had diſcovered itſelf in humble

repre-

repreſentations againſt certain abuſes in taxation; and they had drank to the ſucceſs of the French revolution, but without ever conjecturing that thoſe acts could juſtify an arraignment before ſuch a tribunal.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXIX.

Trial of the Members of the Feſtival.—Condemnation of M. de La Harpe.—His ſubſequent Hiſtory.

AMONGST thoſe who had been moſt induſtrious in promoting a ſpirit of inquiry in the Pays de Vaud, relative to the abuſes of government, was M. de La Harpe, Baron of Yens, and Mutens, whoſe family had been always in the number of thoſe who had aſſerted, though without effect, the independence of their country.

The high court opened its commiſsion at Rolle, a little town on the Lake of Geneva, and within a few ſteps of M. de La Harpe's Chateau, and had already ſent two reſpectable citizens to the dungeons of Chillon; when apprized of his own danger,

danger, he eſcaped at the very moment that an armed boat appeared in view to convey him to the ſame priſon.

M. de La Harpe went to Geneva, whence he wrote to the Bailiff of nis diſtrict, that having received the moſt preſsing warnings of his own perſonal danger, and ſeeing little hope of eſtabliſhing proofs of his innocence, when already perſons arbitrarily arreſted had, without accuſation or proof, been ſent to the priſons of Chillon, he had thought it prudent to withdraw himſelf in order to prevent the ſame injuſtice from being exerciſed on his own perſon; and that having alſo been long afflicted with rheumatic pains, he feared the damps of the dungeons of Chillon would prove fatal to his health. He obſerved to the Governor, that his retiring to Geneva ought not to be conſtrued into flight from juſtice; that he had

taken

taken this ſtep in order to ſilence the calumnies of his enemies, who would have conſtrued his concealment in any part of his country, now overwhelmed with conſternation and deſpair, into projects of exciting inſurrection; that he was ready to appear before any legal tribunal the moment aſſurances were given, that protection would be afforded to innocence, and the lives and privileges of the ſubject be preſerved *.

No other notice was taken of this letter by his judges, than ſummoning him twice to appear before their tribunal.

* M. de La Harpe was probably of the opinion of Charles the Sixth's Confeſſor, to whom the unhappy Monarch expreſſed his aſtoniſhment, that juſtice had condemned his miniſter Montagne to death. "Sire, replied the Monk, he has not been tried *by juſtice*, but only by a *commiſſion*." Hiſt. de France, par Veltra, Vol. xiii. p. 31.

On

On his non-appearance, a bill for high treaſon was found againſt him, to which he anſwered by a memorial, ſtating that he demanded neither favour or pardon, ſince it was a criminal only who ſtood in need of either; that ſecure in his innocence, he claimed again what he had at firſt invoked, a juſt and legal tribunal; and would continue to demand it to his lateſt breath. This anſwer to the accuſation was accompanied with a copy of the memorial, and a letter to the Avoyer or Preſident of the Government at Berne, containing the ſame declarations which he had already made to the Governor of his own diſtrict.

The Burghers, after a deliberation of nine months, and a thorough examination of the evidence againſt him, found M. de La Harpe guilty "of having by indirect means, ſhewn a diſpoſition to per-

perſuade divers folks to make claims, of which ſome, under *ſpecious* appearances, tended directly to overturn the preſent conſtitution of the country;" and alſo "of having celebrated the feſtival of the 14th of July, when the ſignals of inſurrection were diſplayed, in order to excite and ſeduce our faithful ſubjects," and therefore condemned M. de La Harpe to be beheaded, and ordered his property to be confiſcated to the profit of the ſtate. The high commiſsion had previouſly condemned ſome members of this feſtival to the galleys, ſome to twenty-five years impriſonment in the dungeons of Chillon, and others to puniſhments leſs ſevere*.

We

* The company of young men whom, three years after this period, we met on our approach to Vevay, and ſuppoſed to be Frenchmen who had croſſed the Lake to ſpend an holiday, were young citizens of

We will leave the Baroneſs of Auvin, the wife of M. de La Harpe, with her ſix children, at the feet of the council of Berne, ſuffering the laſt ſad aggravation of calamity, while forced to implore, not the repeal of the fatal ſentence againſt the life of her huſband, which ſhe had invoked in vain, but to ſolicit the revocation of that part only, which related to the confiſcation of his property, and which, if put in force, muſt reduce herſelf and her infants to all the horrors of poverty. We will leave awhile this deſolate ſupplicant, and follow the convict to the end of his career.

Vevay, who preſuming too much on the relaxed energies of the government, had amuſed themſelves by ſinging revolutionary ſongs, and diſplaying the ſignals of French liberty, unmindful of the vigilant Bailiff, who, "broke the good meeting with moſt admired diſorder," and cauſed ſome of the party to be impriſoned, and others baniſhed.

M. de la Harpe, receiving no anſwer to his reclamations againſt the tribunals, ſought refuge in the French camp, where he was hailed as a martyr, and named Chief of a battalion of the volunteers of the Seine and Oiſe, at the cloſe of the year 1791. In the following year, he commanded the advanced poſts at the caſtle of Rodemak on the extreme frontiers of France, and, receiving the firſt attacks of the coaleſced armies on their march into the Republic, was expoſed to imminent danger, by the ſudden and unexpected ſurrender of the two frontier towns of Longwy and Verdun. Without hopes of making any effectual reſiſtance, La Harpe was reſolved to give the firſt example of that devotedneſs which the friends of Liberty owe to her cauſe, and found no difficulty in communicating this enthuſiaſm to his ſoldiers. They all ſwore on his ſword, that they would never

capitulate; and if, when reduced to the laſt extremity, they could not force their paſſage, that they would bury themſelves with the enemy under the ruins of the caſtle, the ſubterraneous paſſages of which they had converted into mines.

This generous reſolution was prevented from being carried into effect by General Luckner, who ordered the poſt to be evacuated, and the artillery and ammunition to be tranſported to Thionville.—The order was executed by La Harpe, in ſight of the enemy, who had poſſeſsion of all the ſurrounding poſts; and the addreſs and courage with which it was executed, gained him the appellation of the "brave La Harpe," a title which was beſtowed on him by the General at the head of the army.

After the expulſion of the coaleſced armies in the North, he ſought for more

active service, and took a command in the army of the Alps. At the siege of Toulon he was appointed to command the attack on Fort Pharo, which he carried by assault, and forced the English to evacuate the post; upon which he was made General of Brigade.

On his return to the army of Italy, he took the command of the advanced guard, and opened the communication with Genoa, by defeating the Austrians at Cairo, in 1794. In the beginning of the following year he was appointed to conduct the expedition which was destined to relieve Corsica; but this plan being relinquished he resumed his former position in the army of Italy, which, at this period reduced to two thirds less than the Austrian army, was compelled to retreat. In this perilous situation, La Harpe conducted himself with so much

ſkill, as to defeat his purſuers at Vado, and took ſuch poſitions with his enfeebled force, that the Auſtrian General, who had aſſured himſelf of the conqueſt of Provence, was compelled to give up his projected invaſion.

La Harpe, now raiſed to the rank of General of Diviſion, kept poſſeſſion of the line of defence, which he had traced out, till reinforcements arrived, and the command of the army devolved on Buonaparte.

That the military ſkill and valour of La Harpe powerfully contributed to enſure the firſt ſucceſſes of that immortal campaign, has been recorded by Buonaparte himſelf, and therefore belongs to hiſtory. The Directory acknowledged the obligations of the Republic to La Harpe for his eminent ſervices, in formal letters

of congratulation to himſelf, and his ſon, a youth of ſixteen years of age, who fought at his ſide. But the moſt noble inſtance of his magnanimity was the friendly and cordial reception which he gave the officers of the Swiſs regiment of Stetler, made priſoners at Mandovi, ſome of whom had voted his proſcription. "I hope," ſaid this illuſtrious convict to his judges, "that at no diſtant day, we ſhall meet together in Switzerland as friends."

That day, alas, will never arrive! In the midſt of his career of glory, La Harpe fell by the hands of his own ſoldiers, who miſtook him and his troop, in the darkneſs of the night, on their return from repelling a ſudden attack of the enemy, for the enemy themſelves. The loſs of this brave officer overwhelmed the army with conſternation and ſorrow. Buonaparte, in the relation he ſent of this un-

happy event to the Directory, declared, that "the Republic had loſt a citizen firmly attached to its intereſts, the army one of its beſt generals, and every ſoldier a comrade, who was as intrepid in action, as he was in diſcipline ſevere."*

We

* It is not unworthy of remark, that, among the Generals who have rendered themſeves the moſt illuſtrious in the defence of the French Republic, we find the names of Italians, Engliſh, Scotch, Iriſh, and Germans; ſuch as Kleber, Macdonald, Kilmain, Sherlock, and Maſſena. In the preſent inſtance, a Corſican pays the tribute of his praiſes and regrets to a Swiſs. The friend of liberty, whatever may be his native ſoil, conſiders every free ſtate as his country. It may alſo be obſerved, to the honour of foreigners, that amongſt thoſe who have devoted themſelves to the cauſe of liberty, the inſtances are rare of ſuch as have rendered themſelves unworthy of the ſervice. I have indeed, from being myſelf deceived, miſled my readers in the firſt volume of my Letters on Revolutionary Government, reſpecting an officer once employed in the French ſervice, and well known both in England

and

We have left Madame de La Harpe at the feet of the burghers of Berne, imploring their mercy for the ſupport of her children. Buonaparte, after the death of her huſband, became a ſuppliant in the petition; and it was then readily admitted that there was a miſtake in the ſentence, and that the property of General La Harpe had never been confiſcated. Had the hero of Italy puſhed the inquiry a little further, the govern-

and France. It is with keen regret that I am compelled to retract thoſe opinions, having ſince their publication received the moſt deciſive evidence of that General's want of every principle of honour and integrity. This evidence has lately been confirmed by the relation given me by Mr. Muir, and other gentlemen, whoſe teſtimony, relying on facts collected during their reſidence in the Spaniſh dominions in South America, leave me no alternative to the taſk, however painful, of undeceiving thoſe whom I may heretofore have miſled.

ment

ment of Berne would probably have discovered that the ſentence was altogether miſunderſtood, and that La Harpe had never been condemned to be beheaded.

CHAP.

CHAP. XL.

Diſcontents of the popular Party.—Reclamation of the Guarantee of the Privileges of the Pays de Vaud by France.—Hiſtory of that Treaty.—Griefs of Switzerland againſt the French Republic.—Griefs of the French Republic againſt Switzerland.—Remedies propoſed by the popular Party.—Reflections on the Progreſs of the French Revolution.

THE ſeverity of the government of Berne towards the members of the feſtival of the fourteenth of July, by the introduction of cannon, and revolutionary tribunals, called by one of their writers, "The art of governing poſſeſſed in an eminent degree, by the adminiſtration of Berne, and nearly loſt in the reſt of Europe," has added an inexhauſtible ſtock of fuel to that diſcontent, which, Mr. Cox aſſerts, led the upper claſſes, twenty years ſince, to wiſh for a monarchical government. Their deſcendants, however, partaking of the contagion of the times,

openly

openly demand, with no tempered language or diſſembled phraſes, the aid of a foreign power, to eſtabliſh a ſyſtem of republican independence. With this view, they claim the guarantee made by the French nation in 1565, in confirmation of the treaty of Lauſanne, concluded the preceding year between Philibert, the ſucceſſor of Charles the Third, Duke of Savoy, and the Swiſs Cantons.

In that treaty the Prince made a formal renunciation of whatever title he claimed to the Pays de Vaud, upon regaining poſſeſsion of the Pays de Gex, Breſſe, and other diſtricts, which continued to enjoy thoſe privileges under the domination of Savoy and France, of which their fellow ſubjects, the Vaudois, were deprived under the paternal protection of the government of Berne. As that engagement was cited in the treaty

of

of 1582, ſo all foregoing intermediate treaties were confirmed the laſt treaty of 1777, made at Soleure. France, which, as well as the Houſe of Savoy, became by thoſe treaties the guarantee of the liberties of the Pays de Vaud, is now the legal repreſentative of that houſe, by the late peace of 1796. The popular party in the Pays de Vaud therefore aſſert, that if France, when a monarchy, protected for more than two centuries the uſurpation of the patricians, France, now a republic, will fulfil her engagements in favour of the rights of the people*.

* The glory of giving independence to his country, if that event takes place, will chiefly belong to Colonel La Harpe, the couſin of the General. A reſidence of twelve years in the court of Ruſſia, and the menaces of the government of Berne, ſeem only to have ſtrengthened and confirmed in Colonel La Harpe the moſt ardent zeal for the cauſe of liberty.

To

To incite the government of France to an examination of the treaties, by which their liberties are ſaid to be guaranteed, they have been induſtrious in ſhewing, not only how much it is the intereſt of the Republic, that this information ſhould take place, but that its honour is engaged to avenge the numerous inſults and injuries committed by theſe Cantons during the preſent conteſt.

But of inſults and injuries the Swiſs alſo complain; the maſſacre of a part of their troops on the 10th of Auguſt; the diſmiſsion of the reſt; the withdrawing the annual ſubſidy from the catholic Cantons; the releaſe of the Fribourg inſurgents from the gallies; the triumph of the ſoldiers of the regiment of Chateauvieux; and the *propagande*, have been urged as grounds of diſcontent, and juſtifications even of enmity.

To

To theſe charges it has been anſwered, that the maſſacre of the Swiſs, admitting it to be a maſſacre, was the conſequence of a popular inſurrection, in which, as the Swiſs regiment of guards had been diſmiſſed by the aſſembly two months previous to the cataſtrophe, they ought not to have taken part. That the diſmiſſal of the remainder was become neceſſary for their own ſafety; that the hiring of foreign ſoldiers to fight in a cauſe not their own, was contrary to every principle of humanity; and that their diſmiſſal was accompanied with a ſtrict regard to juſtice in the full indemnities and penſions paid to the officers and ſoldiers. With reſpect to the other charges, it is obſerved, that the Conſtituent Aſſembly, in releaſing the Fribourghers, had only wiped off the ſtain of the old government which had ſent them to the gallies; that the ſoldiers of Chateau-

vieux

vieux were the blind dupes of a faction, and that the dreaded *propagande* never exiſted.

If, notwithſtanding theſe explanations, it be contended that the balance of national wrongs were yet againſt the French, it is aſſerted that the Swiſs have amply ſettled the account. From the beginning of the Revolution, the governments, democratical as well as ariſtocratical, have been its decided enemies. Not only were the Swiſs ſoldiers in the ſervice of France compelled, on their temporary viſits to their country, to diveſt themſelves of the national cockade which formed a part of their uniform, but Frenchmen themſelves were conſtrained to hide every ſymbol of liberty, in order to avoid being expoſed to inſult. Although affording an aſylum to the unfortunate is a debt which both governments and individuals owe to humanity,

humanity, yet the warm welcome given to the French emigrants by the Cantons of Berne, Soleure and Fribourg, might be conſidered by France as an infringement of national friendſhip, if not of neutrality. It was in theſe Cantons that the emigrant army took its riſe, and almoſt on the French frontier, under the eyes of the officers of their governments, that the moſt active agents of the counter-revolution eſtabliſhed their offices of correſpondence. The patricians of thoſe Cantons took part even in the meaſures of the coalition, although their inſtructions were framed in ſo indirect a manner as to be diſavowed according to circumſtances. The reality of the engagements they had taken ought further to be preſumed, from the indirect praiſes beſtowed on their conduct, in the famous anſwer addreſſed by the French Princes to Louis the Sixteenth, at the cloſe of

the year 1791, which contained a detailed enumeration of the powers on which the Monarch might rely for the re-eſtabliſhment of his authority. Although complaints were made of this publication, it is inſiſted that the adheſion was not the leſs founded, and that the ceſsion of certain portions adjoining the Swiſs territory, was promiſed to theſe Cantons in the general diviſion of France, which, from the force of the coalition, it was preſumed would ſpeedily take place. Theſe engagements, continue the reformers, were kept ſecret till the invaſion of Savoy by the French, when under pretence of ſecuring the independence of Geneva, the patricians of Berne lined the frontiers of the department of Ain, and the Jura, with numerous armies, intending to pour them into that quarter as ſoon as the Pruſsians and Auſtrians, who were then in Champagne, ſhould

have paſſed Chalons. This attempt was diſcovered and defeated by the Miniſter Claviere, to whom, it muſt be obſerved, the Swiſs attribute the deſign, not only of invading Geneva, but of purſuing the conqueſt into the territory of the Pays de Vaud; which project they aſſert was prevented by the diſobedience of Monteſquieu, who commanded the French army in that quarter, and by the moderation of the Ambaſſador* of France.

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* Theſe warlike preparations on the part of the Canton of Berne, it is ſaid, was a meaſure only of ſelf-defence. Mr. Burke, who is in this caſe an undoubted authority, informs us, that the Canton of Berne began very early to act on the *defenſive*. The import of this phraſe is now pretty generally underſtood. Of the notion which the leading patricians of Berne had of acting on the *defenſive*, ſomething may be learnt from a letter of M. Mallet du Pan, to Marſhall Caſtries, dated September 17, 1792. By this letter, intercepted and depoſited in the Archives of

The popular party maintained, that the Governors of theſe Cantons not only omitted the French Government, it appears that Swiſs troops, on the deliverance of the King from his captivity, of which at that period no doubt was entertained, were to have the excluſive honour of guarding the royal perſon. The writer of this letter obſerves, that as military government muſt for ſome time neceſſarily be eſtabliſhed in France, it was expedient to appoint ſuch men to places of confidence, as had ſufficient nerve to execute the truſt; and that M. D'Erlach, the Bailiff of Lauſanne, whom he regarded as the Providence of the Pays de Vaud, and with whom the French emigrants had found more than protection, had yielded to his repreſentations, and demanded from the Count d'Artois the command of the guards.

It may be obſerved, that the actions of individuals ought not to be imputed to the Government, and that M. Mallet du Pan and M. D'Erlach, might have formed plans and conſpiracies againſt France, which the Government, had it diſcovered, would have diſavowed and reprobated. To this obſervation it may be rejoined, that although theſe plots and conſpiracies were matters of the moſt public notoriety, they were never

omitted no occaſion of teſtifying their hoſtile diſpoſitions towards the French, but were guilty of various infractions of their neutrality. When the manifeſto of the coalition, ſay they, was anſwered by the proclamation of the exiſtence of the Republic, not only were divers individuals ordered to quit the Swiſs territory, but the French ambaſſador was compelled to leave Soleure, and ſubmit to be tolerated at Baden. When Denmark, Sweden, and even Pruſsia, and Spain, had acknowledged the French Republic, the patricians of thoſe Cantons were ſtedfaſt in their loyalty to what was called *external France*, its political and eccle-

never diſavowed on the part of the Government of Berne; and therefore to prevent ſuch *providences*, as M. D'Erlach, and M. Mallet du Pan, from acting on the *defenſive*, and ſuperintending affairs at Paris, would have juſtified the interpoſition of the French, admitting that ſuch interpoſition had ever been intended.

ſiaſtical hierarchy, and its king; and the exiſtence of ſuch a Republic was conſidered as a capital hereſy, till the victorious arguments of Moreau and Buonaparte removed theſe fondly cheriſhed ſcruples.

The arreſt of the ambaſſador Semonville, on the territory of the Griſons, by the Auſtrians, was a manifeſt violation of the neutrality, which the French at that time had not the means of reſenting. This infraction had been preceded by another, when, on the expulſion of the Piedmonteſe troops from Savoy, a Swiſs regiment effected its eſcape acroſs the lake, and returned to join the main army in the valley of Aoſte, through the territory of Berne, and the Vallais, without any puniſhment being inflicted on the commanders, or the Bailiffs reſident in that territory. Encouraged by impu-

nity, theſe allies ſuffered a bolder ſtroke to be attempted, when the defection of Dumourier, in 1793, had opened the northern frontier to the enemy, and the Republic was torn on every ſide by internal war and diviſions, it was ſuggeſted that the invaſion of Savoy, where the French army was conſiderably weakened, would, independently of the recovery of the territory, operate a powerful diverſion, and renew the theatre of war in that part of France.

The plan of forcing the defiles of Mount Cenis, and the poſt of St. Bernard, by two ſtrong columns, which ſhould penetrate into the Maurienne, and the Tarentaſe, and form their junction towards Mont-Melian and Chamberry, was concerted with the march of a third column from the valley of Aoſte to that of Fauſigny, which would render the

defence of thoſe defiles more difficult for the French, and might even force them to abandon their poſition. Two obſtacles ſeemed to impede this plan; a formidable Glacier, and the Swiſs neutrality; both to all appearance inſurmountable: for if the Glacier could not be ſcaled, there was no means of reaching the French but acroſs the neutral territory.—The Glacier was inflexible in its neutrality, but the King of Sardinia it appears, had diſcovered the diſſolving temperature of the allies of France, and the Piedmonteſe pilgrims, with their mules loaded with arms, baggage and ammunition, ſhook the ſnows off their feet on the Swiſs ſide of the great St. Bernard, and aſcending by the Col de Balme, the laſt boundary of the territory of the Vallais, reſumed the dreſs of the ſoldier, and aided by the hunters of the country, ſurpriſed the French in the valley of Fauſ-

ſigny,

ſigny, penetrated to Bonneville, within five leagues of Geneva, and in three days were in the rear of the Republican army, before the French had any knowledge of the expedition. The ſucceſs of this plan would have been complete, and the French magazines would have been neceſſarily taken, had the enterpriſe been ſupported by reinforcements of cavalry to keep up the inſurrection which had previouſly been fomented in Savoy.

The want of addreſs in the Sardinian troops, and the valour of the French, forced theſe pilgrims to a ſecond journey acroſs the Swiſs territory, over St. Bernard, which retreat was effected with the ſame open violation of neutrality, without oppoſition from the Swiſs, or purſuit by the French, although invited by the people of the lower Vallais, to ſeize that opportunity of helping them

to ſhake off their yoke, for which attempt ten of the inſurgents had been lately hanged, and ſeven ſent to the gallies.—As that part of the Swiſs territory, in which theſe events took place, belonged to the government of the Vallais, the patricians of that diſtrict took upon themſelves the whole merit of the enterprize, in which the government of Berne, as it ſucceeded ſo ill, were not ſolicitous to claim their ſhare.

It is true that the Swiſs ſoldiers who were employed to aid this expedition, ſtruck with the diſhonour of the action, revolted againſt their commander, and made complaints, which were prudently huſhed; it is true alſo that this officer ſo far incurred the animadverſion of his government as to provoke a ſentence againſt him, which it is ſaid, from its mildneſs, proved their aſſent and approbation.

bation. Mr. D'Erlach, the principal in this project, received a box ſet in diamonds from the King of Sardinia, and was ſoon after raiſed to the dignity of a Senator of Berne.

Theſe are a few among the numerous charges brought by the diſcontented chiefs of the Pays de Vaud againſt the governments of Switzerland, particularly that of their own Canton, in order to lead the government of France to the examination how far ſuch allies are worthy of the continuance of its friendſhip. Theſe popular leaders inſiſt, at the ſame time, that the Swiſs nation has been guilty of no other offence againſt France than that of being paſsive and involuntary inſtruments in the hands of their maſters; and that they have in general diſplayed a lively intereſt in the fate of France, and the ſucceſs of the revolution.

Thoſe

Thoſe patriots, while they appear ſo ſolicitous to prompt the French to avenge their wrongs, do not forget what is wanting to remedy their own; and left the French government ſhould have any heſitation reſpecting the propriety of interpoſing in the internal concerns of independent countries, or ſhould not feize the full force and meaning of theſe antiquated charters, various precedents are adduced of the intereſt taken by the patricians of Berne in ſettling diſputes between governors and ſubjects in other ſtates. Such was their interpoſition in favour of the French monarchy, againſt the patriots of Geneva; in favour of the patricians of Fribourg, againſt the inhabitants of the Canton; in favour of the governors of the upper Vallais, againſt their ſubjects; in favour of the biſhop of Baſil, againſt the people of the biſhoprick; in favour of the King of Pruſsia, againſt Neufchatel;

Neufchatel; in favour of the democrats of Uri, againſt the Val de Levantine; and of the burghers of Zurich, againſt the people of the lake.

What reaſons can the government of Berne produce why other powers ſhould not exerciſe alſo the ſame right of interference with reſpect to their ſubjects? eſpecially when by written treaties thoſe powers have become ſecurities for the preſervation of their rights?

Such is the long liſt of tranſgreſsions againſt the privileges of equal freedom which theſe patriots of retentive memory have brought forward againſt the government of Berne, and ſuch the remedies which they propoſe for their political evils. Whether the French Republic will accede to this invitation, and render the Pays de Vaud independent of Berne, is

a ſecret

a ſecret which the book of deſtiny will perhaps ere long unfold.

In the mean time, it is natural to conclude, that the principles of that mighty revolution, which have already diffuſed themſelves over remote regions of the globe, cannot fail to expand in thoſe countries which are placed immediately within their influence. Since the period of the French revolution, ages have flitted before our eyes, and we have riſen ſuddenly, like the offspring of Deucalion, from infancy to manhood, not without indications it muſt be confeſſed, of the hardened origin whence we ſprung. Like the traveller, who from the ſcorching plains, climbs the rocks that lead him to the regions of eternal ſnow, and finds that in the ſpace of a few hours he has paſſed through every ſucceſsive latitude, from burning heat to the con-

fines

ſines of the frozen pole, the journey of months; ſo the human mind, placed within the ſphere of the French revolution, has bounded over the ruggedneſs of ſlow metaphyſical reſearches, and reached at once, with an incredible effort, the higheſt probable attainments of political diſcovery.

CON-

CONCLUSION.

ALTHOUGH, conſidered under certain points of view, nothing can be more defective than the governments of Switzerland, in which there are no conſtitutions, and no criminal laws; where civil legiſlation is incomplete, inconſtant, and complicated; where every thing is arbitrary; where liberty, of which ſo vain a boaſt has been made, is ſo little underſtood; where the abſolute reſtraint put on the preſs, and the intolerance exerciſed with reſpect to religious opinions, have ſtifled every attempt to promote a more liberal education, and foſter more benevolent and enlarged ſentiments; it muſt be remarked, that the practice of theſe governments has happily not always correſponded with their theory. Sometimes,

times, when the ſpirit of deſpotiſm would have exerciſed its fury, the means of execution have been wanting. Although accuſtomed to the yoke, the people who bear arms in their hands, a privilege of no little value, have occaſionally hinted to their governors that they muſt not make that yoke too heavy. The ſmallneſs of their towns, the ſocial connection of the inhabitants, the union which exiſts between them and the inhabitants of the country, where no intrigue interrupts the harmony, have kept alive ſome ſparks of public ſpirit ſufficient to arreſt the march or interrupt the progreſs of thoſe governments towards abſolute deſpotiſm, independent of other conſiderations ariſing from local or accidental circumſtances, which have often determined them to moderation.

Hence we obſerve in Switzerland more cultivation, eaſe and proſperity, than we ſhould ſee in arbitrary governments where theory is ſtrengthened by practice. But it muſt be remembered that this general effect is no evidence of ſecurity to the individual. In a country where liberty is neither guarded by laws, nor by ſocial inſtitutions, there may exiſt a ſort of public moderation which ſpares the great maſs, but gives no poſitive protection.

The ſecurity of theſe governments has ariſen from the experience that private and inſulated injuſtice have cauſed no general murmur, and they have cheriſhed, like other governments, the falſe principle, that becauſe they are in motion, they ſhall therefore never ceaſe to move. The French revolution has diſplayed the fallacy of this belief; but

the

the great changes which have lately taken place in Italy, are ſaid to have had a far more powerful influence on Switzerland, than all thoſe by which they were preceded; ſince the revolution itſelf only overthrew an abſolute monarchy, which admitted of few points of compariſon with the conſtitutions of Switzerland; but the ſubverſion of thoſe ariſtocracies, which have always been repreſented as happy models of a part of the Swiſs governments, have awakened new ideas in that country, of which the effects are already ſenſibly perceived. Should a ſpark from the blaze of French liberty fall on thoſe combuſtible materials, it may kindle into a flame; and if it be the policy of the French Republic to give itſelf a moral as well as a geographical frontier, its friendly intercourſe with Switzerland will probably mould the various governments of

that country into forms of nearer ſimilitude to its own.

In the preceding ſketch, ſufficiently imperfect from the inability of the writer, many voluntary omiſsions will alſo be obſerved. I have ſaid nothing of the Confederation which binds the Cantons of Switzerland together; of the barbarous policy ſo well known, and ſo often reprobated, of ſelling the lives of their citizens to foreign powers; and have entered into no detailed hiſtory of its governments, becauſe I wiſhed carefully to avoid telling what others have told better.

With ſincere reluctance I bade Switzerland farewell. Who can leave ſuch a country without regret? If we find its governments defective, or its ſocieties dull, there is always a reſource againſt

every

every feeling of diſlike, or of wearineſs, in the meditation of that glorious ſcenery, the view of which renders the mind inſenſible to human evils, by lifting it beyond their reach. Switzerland has opened to me a new world of ideas; its landſcapes are indelibly impreſſed upon my memory; whenever the delightful images of nature preſent themſelves to my imagination, I find that I have been thinking only of Switzerland; and whenever I amuſe myſelf in that ſort of viſionary architecture, called caſtle-building, my chateau is always ſeated at the foot of an Alpine hill, a torrent ſtream rolls inviſibly paſt the dwelling, and an enormous glacier lifts its ſnows in the neighbourhood.

In that memorable winter, which turned the waters of Holland into dry ground, we paſſed through Franche Comté, on our way to Paris; not without

conſiderable danger from the wolves, which the ſeverity of the froſt had brought down from the Jura into the plains, and impelled to attack the unguarded traveller.

" Cruel as death, and hungry as the grave,
" Burning for blood! bony, and gaunt, and grim!"

A general thaw which took place the night we reached Beſançon, and rendered the roads for ſome days impaſſable, detained us agreeably with the accompliſhed and hoſpitable family of one of my fellow travellers.

I returned to Paris, and to my family, with feelings how different from thoſe I had felt on my departure! I had now only ſcenes of gratulation to witneſs, and only tears of luxury to ſhed!

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

*Observations on the Glacieres, and the Glaciers *, by M. Ramond.*

TWENTY ages ſince, when Rome, for the firſt time, caſt a look towards thoſe unknown regions, whence iſſued the barbarous nations who were moſt the objects of her dread, ſhe beheld, with aſtoniſhment, a chain of ſummits, bolder than Caucaſus, eternally covered with the ſnows of winter. The civilized world for a while, believed that Italy was joined by

* The Glacieres are central mountains, on which the ſnow firſt collects itſelf; the name of Glaciers is given to thoſe ramifications of ice which branch from that centre.

the Alps to the frozen pole of the North*.

Whilſt the Romans were contemplating theſe Mountains, Hannibal ſcaled them. He found, as he had conjectured, that the whole of their ſurface was not covered with ſnows, and was led by their ſavage, but free inhabitants, acroſs their wild paſturages, hidden amidſt maſſes of rocks, and the Romans diſcovered that they were not invincible.

It is not yet precifely determined over what parts of the mountains the Carthaginians paſſed; nor can we form any juſt idea of the ſtate of the Alps at the time of their paſſage, ſince we know not to what places we ought to apply the deſcriptions given by the hiſtorians who

* See Polybius, Book II.

have

have tranſmitted to us the account of this aſtoniſhing expedition. All that we can conclude from what they have related, is, that the Alps had at that time reached their period of old age; hills had filled up vallies; regular ſlopes had become abrupt precipices; vaſt maſſes rent from their ſides, indicated their decay, and the regions of ice which Hannibal croſſed, were no doubt the conqueſts made by the higher glaciers over the territory beneath. This is all that hiſtory records, but in what annals ſhall we trace the youth of theſe eldeſt daughters of the earth? To what remote period ſhall we revert, to diſcover the infancy of what for ſo many centuries has paſſed the boundaries of old age? If a frail machine, the work of an inſtant, which moves, which feels, which ſuffers, which lives, which with all its force and energies haſtens to decay; if man counts by years, by what numbers or lapſes of time ſhall thoſe paſ-

ſive inſenſible maſſes be computed, which are formed to reſiſt, like the globe of which they are a part, that deſolation which changes, without intermiſsion, the beautiful ſcenery of its external form ?

Let us then no longer regret the loſs of facts which hiſtorians have omitted to mention; what information ſhould we gain from annals of ſuch recent date? What are ſuch points of compariſon, at the diſtance only of a few ages from each other? But there is another hiſtory, in which the records of nations occupies but an imperceptible ſpace, the hiſtory of nature. The mind of genius, which can read its characters, bounds, at one ſtep, over the limits of our ſhort and dubious page, and leaving at a remote diſtance both nations, and their earlieſt convulſions, plunges into antiquity far beyond their ken; diſcovers its periods, and fixes the

epochas

epochas of its revolutions. From the ſhores of the ſea he departs; there he collects thoſe facts which are moſt recent; he marks the yeſterday of nature; for nations in his ſight are but the beings of the day. He then approaches the hills which riſe up from the ſhores, thoſe which the waters laſt formed when they finally withdrew from the land. Thoſe are long parallel, and but little elevated lines, the work of the waters in their ſlow retreat, for when the ocean left them behind, it had loſt its primitive fury, tending with leſs impetuoſity towards the hollow which it now fills.

As he advances, the mountains raiſe their heads, and branch off in different chains, the various directions of which leave traces of the ſtruggles of the waters. Here, broad and deep vallies mark the currents; a raging ſea has waſhed the cliffs and pre-

cipices

cipices above. Vaſt banks of ſhells and vegetable productions, are proofs of the long abode which the water has made, and their petrifaction bears teſtimony to the number of years which have elapſed ſince the ſea has left them.

In a loftier region, every object aſſumes a bolder ſhape; every thing indicates more violent convulſions, diſcovers mightier operations, and leads us back to antiquity ſtill more remote. Every ſtep of elevation adds a century to the age of the mountains, and when the obſerver arrives at length a thouſand fathoms above the real level of the ſeas, he is at the greateſt height where traces of their abode are found, and where the moſt diſtant period of their known labours is diſcoverable *.

Neverthelefs

* Late diſcoveries, made by M. Ramond, in the Pyrenees, have led him to conclude, that the waters have

Nevertheleſs he is far from having reached the higheſt points which briſtle over the

have obtained a loftier height than he has here mentioned. I have lately received a letter from him on the ſubject of theſe diſcoveries, of which the following is an extract:

" Je pourſuis maintenant ces obſervations, et ſi la " lecture de celles que j'ai publiées, vous inſpire de " l'interet pour les montagnes que j'habite aujour " d'huy, vous ne ſerez pas fachée d'apprendre que " cette annee, je ſuis parvenûe à la partie moyenne du " Montperdu, que l'on peut regarder comme le Mont- " blanc, des Pyrénées, et que perſonne encore n'avait " tenté d'approcher, là j'ai trouvé des glaciers qui ne " le cedent guêres à ce que les Alpes ont de plus mag- " nifique en ce genre. Mais ce que les Alpes ne vous " ont point montré ; ce qu'elles ne montreront proba- " blement, à aucun obſervateur, ce ſont les formes " etranges, l'aſpect épouvantable des montagnes cal- " caires ſecondaires portées à une telle hauteur ; ce ſont " les débris du regne organique giſans ſur leur crimes ; ce " ſont les oſſemens des quadrupedes terreſtres mêlés " aux coquilles des téſtaces, et aux loges des Zoophytes, " c'eſt le cimetiere des antédiluviens à quinze ou dix " huit cens toiſes au deſſus du niveau actuël de la " mer. "

globe.

globe. From the bofom of the mountains which he has juft fcaled, rifes a formidable chain of naked rocks, that feem to have held perpetual dominion over the fhorelefs feas which rolled around the globe. We fhould feek in vain for comparifons, and epochas between them, and thofe maffes of mountains, which the fea has formed; the annals of nature here leave a vaft chafm; there is nothing common in their refpective operations; the fpoils of the animal and vegetable kingdom, which the fecondary mountains contain, prove that our earth was then the theatre of life; but who has witneffed the birth of the primitive mountains, which conceal nothing but the fimpleft aggregations of the mineral kingdom? when our planet brought them forth, it was nothing but a dry folitude.

Such

Such is the antiquity of theſe mountains. Their origin is co-eval with the infancy of the globe, and muſt be left to the ſame conjectures. If we believe in the hypotheſis of that conflagration of the earth, which kept it ſo long in a ſtate of liquefaction, we may ſuppoſe them to have been formed from the unequal connection of its parts, and the tumefactions ariſing from its firſt cooling *. If, on the contrary, we ſuppoſe that the ſeas were able to maintain themſelves for a ſeries of ages, at more than double the height which has been commonly granted, we may believe that their waters, as yet void of inhabitants, rolled on a purely mineral mud, and formed this enormous maſs of ſimple rocks †.

But

* M. Buffon's Syſtem.

† Such is the opinion of Mr. Sauſſure, in his excellent work on the Alps. He is the firſt who has diſcove red,

But of what importance to us are theſe different ſyſtems? The exiſtence of the primordial mountains, intereſts us no farther than from the epocha when they proceeded from the boſom of the waters, ſurrounded with their inveſtiture of ſecondary mountains, ſoftening their forms, ſmoothing their aſperities, and ſerving as a baſis to vegetation, whilſt they interchain, and ſtretch themſelves in every direction over the drained continent, dividing into different regions its uniform extent, and deſtroying that level by which it would be expoſed to new deluges, and condemned to eternal ſterility. Every

covered, or thinks he has diſcovered, regular ſtrata, in the primitive mountains; which conſequently cannot be the work of a revolution. Theſe ſtrata are not horizontal, but, on the contrary, almoſt perpendicular. We may compare them to leaves piled againſt each other, ſo that every point of the high Alps, could be well repreſented by an artichoke.

thing

thing in theſe primitive chains is regular, every thing bears the impreſsion of the firſt deſigns of nature. Their gentle, and fruitful declivities offer all the gradations of vegetation without confuſion, anſwering, with exactneſs, to the different ſtrata of the atmoſphere, and paſſing, from the laviſh fertility of the plains, to the ſcanty indigence of the lofty heights. The vegetable kingdom is terminated by moſs; every thing beyond is abſolute barrenneſs.

Although this barrier chain of primitive rocks, which proudly dominate over the habitable globe, as they roſe above the deluge by which it was covered, ſeems to have eſcaped the common laws of nature, it is only to wear her yoke in another form. The ſummits of this vaſt chain ſuſtain an immenſe, and eternal load of ſnows; and whilſt their foundations, like

thoſe of the inferior mountains, augment the ſurface of the earth, whilſt they water it with pure ſtreams, divide the lower ſtratum of the atmoſphere into limited portions, ſpread the clouds, and fever and direct the winds, which, without ſo powerful an obſtacle, would ruſh round the globe in uniform direction with deſtructive impetuoſity; they keep up an immenſe ſtore-houſe of waters, the waſte of which is always proportioned to the warmth of the ſummer, and which, far from drying up by its ſcorching heat, would have power to extinguiſh the conflagration of an hemiſphere.

But what is the cauſe of the cold which reigns over theſe lofty heights? By what caprice has nature accumulated, in the abode of eternal ſerenity, thoſe laboratories of ice, which ought to hold their place only amidſt the regions of fogs, and in the diſmal twilight of the polar world?

Why

Why do ſolitude and death divide the dominion of thoſe regions, which the planet that gives life to all, enlightens with its pureſt rays?

Some who attribute to the earth an *abſolute* heat, the remains of its conflagration, ſuppoſe that the mountains, from being inſulated maſſes diſtant from the central focus, are ſubject to a greater loſs of internal fire*, others conſidering the reflection

* In his note on Springs, Doctor Darwin informs us, "that the primary cauſe, why the ſummits of "mountains are much colder than the plains is, their "being in a manner inſulated, or cut off from the com-"mon heat of the earth, which is always forty-eight "degrees, and perpetually counteracts the effects of "external cold beneath that degree." In his note on the Glaciers, he obſerves, that "the common heat "of the interior parts of the earth being always forty-"eight degrees, both in winter and ſummer, the ſnow "which lies in contact with it is always in a thaw-"ing ſtate; hence in ice-houſes the external parts of

tion and concentration of the rays of the ſun as the ſole cauſe of the heat of the plains, think that the ſolitary ſtate of the mountains is ſufficient to account for the cold which freezes their ſummits. A few there are who reject both theſe ſyſtems without

" the collection of ice is perpetually thawing, ſo that " it is neceſſary to lay up many tons for the preſer- " vation of one ton; hence, in Italy, conſiderable " rivers have their ſource from beneath the eternal " glaciers, or mountains of ſnow and ice."—This philoſophic poet is ſo delighted in roving with his " Nymphs of Primeval Fire," that he ſcarcely deigns to caſt a glance on the no leſs intereſting divinities of the Glaciers. Had he viſited the ſublime ſcenery which they inhabit, he would not only have been enchanted with his icy rambles, and elevated us with his eagle ſong, but he would have made us underſtand, more clearly, how, ſince the ſummits of the higher Alps are inſulated, and cut off from the action of the central fire, it could melt, by its heat, the eternal glaciers into conſiderable rivers.

The modeſt, ſnow-mantled nymphs are not only jealous of the Doctor's neglect, but piqued at his calumnies;

without hesitation, and assure us that the simple rarefaction of air is sufficient to produce this effect; that as no fluid can suffer

lumnies; their complaints still hang on my recollection:

While o'er the Alpine cliff, I musing stray'd,
And gaz'd on Nature, in her charms severe,
The last soft beam of parting day, displayed
The Glacier-Goddess, on her chrystal sphere.

Her sledgy-car, with sparkling frost-work bright,
O'er the pellucid ice her snow-birds drew,
And on her fleecy robe refracted light
The full-blown rose's vermeil colours threw.

Slow as she graceful lifts her misty veil,
Indignant grief, her mournful glance expresst,
And thus, in falt'ring tones, the vestal pale,
Breath'd the deep sorrows of her beating breast.

" Native of that green isle, where Darwin waves
" His magic wand o'er Nature's vernal reign,
" Her airy essence, and her central caves,
" Her fires electric, and her Nereid train,

ſuffer a degree of heat above its denſity, ſo the air, more diſtant from the ſurface of the earth, at the ſame time that it is leſs denſe, is deprived of the mixture of thoſe vapours

" Go, tell him, ſtranger, had his muſe explor'd
" My realms, new marvels had enchained her eye;
" Go, tell him, in my ſunleſs fanes are ſtor'd
" Treaſures no vulgar glance ſhall e'er deſcry.

" Ye Nymphs of Fire! around your glowing brows
" What laviſh wreathes your Poet loves to twine?
" Know, partial bard! philoſophy allows
" That one bright chaplet might belong to mine!

" Ah, why a veſtal to a 'fiend'* transform,
" Bid to my ſteeps thy glitt'ring bands repair,
" Direct with cruel aim, their arrowy ſtorm,
" And chain a Goddeſs to the 'northern bear?'

" Stay thy raſh ſteps! my potent hand impels
" The ruſhing Avalanche to gulphs below!
" I can tranſfix thee numb'd, in icy cells,
" Or ſhroud thee in unfathom'd folds of ſnow!

* Botanic Garden, Canto 1ſt. V. 442.

" Come

vapours of different natures, which mix, ferment, diſſolve, and become regenerated

" Come not in hoſtile garb!—with ſofter art,
" With dearer power, my yielding ſpirit ſeize,
" Wake thy rich lyre, and melt my gelid heart
" With incenſe ſweeter than the weſtern breeze.

" Thy muſe ſhall mount my Lammer-Geyer's wing,
" Paſs o'er my untrod heights, with daring courſe,
" While the cold Genii of each new-born ſpring
" For thee unlock the rivers viewleſs ſource.

" For thee my ſylphs, with tender care, ſhall mark
" The printleſs pathway of the ſecret rills,
" And light with lambent ray, the caverns dark
" Where chemic nature myſtic wealth diſtills.

" For thee my ſylphs in diſtant lands ſhall trace,
" Where, far diffuſed, my vivifying powers
" Awake, ungrateful bard, in bluſhing grace,
" To life and love, awake thy wedded flowers.

" For thee—but ah, my penſive form he flies,
" For nymphs of golden locks, and florid hue!
" No charms have ſnow-white tints, or azure eyes,"
She wept, and folded in a cloud, withdrew.

in the lower region of the atmoſphere, and ought therefore to be conſidered as acting very powerfully on its temperature*.

Whatever, in fine, may be the various ſyſtems framed to explain theſe phænomena, I think we ought to look on that as the moſt probable, which eſtabliſhes the moſt uniform and conſtant cauſe. Nothing indeed is more regular than the law of nature; and the law which ſeparates the living world from the region of ſnow, is

* The opinion which I have juſt given, and on which I ſhall endeavour to comment, is that of M. de Luc. He has thrown it into the laſt pages of his great work, without diſtinctly explaining the foundation on which it reſts; and though he affirms, that he can adopt no other ſyſtem, after having made acquaintance with mountains, I own that it is leſs from my own experience, than the confidence that I have in that of M. de Luc, that I ſhould adhere to this ſyſtem.

indicated in all latitudes, by an imaginary furface, which is 2400 fathoms higher than the level of the ſea above the equator, and which gradually approaching the earth, cuts the real ſurface near the eighetieth degree of latitude.

If we apply this rule to the Alps, we ſhall find that, ſituated at a diſtance from the equator, which exceeds the half of its diſtance from the pole, they ought to meet the region of the ſnows at a height leſs than half that of the elevation of this region above the ſeas of the equator; whence it follows, that if the Alps had preſerved their original form, we ſhould have ſeen their chain covered with a ſtratum of ſnow, the lower borders of which would be fairly cut by the region of vegetation at 1100 fathoms above the level of the ſea. The ſituation alone of ſome ſummits, relatively to the aſpect

of

of the ſun, and the activity which the rays of this luminary acquire from the reflection of certain ſurfaces on their neighbouring bodies, would interrupt by a ſmall number of irregularities, the unvaried whiteneſs of this long ridge of froſts.

If this ſtate has exiſted, it could only have exiſted for a very ſhort period, ſince the forms are continually changing to ſettle into a regular ſhape. The maſs of ice having begun to collect, muſt neceſſarily have augmented; and if there was but one year in which theſe ſummits harboured ſnows, part of which reſiſted the action of the ſun, this muſt be the cauſe why, at that height, they ſhould not melt in proportion to their accumulation. Now the maſs and weight of theſe ices could not have increaſed, without detaching from the main body enormous portions, which, rolling down the ſlope of the mountains,

have carried winter into warmer regions, where they have preſerved themſelves by means of their extent, againſt the heats of ſummer. Torrents have multiplied in proportion to the increaſe of the ice, and its approach towards the temperate zone; they have carried away the ſoil that covered the brow of the hills, and made way for obſcure precipices, down which theſe ramifications of ice have been lengthened from the higher ſummits, and which are deſtined to lay waſte the lower mountains, and reunite in a continued chain the glaciers, till then fettered on their inſulated tops.

Such is the preſent ſtate of the Alps. If it was poſsible to raiſe ourſelves above their ſummits, and take in at one view the whole maſs, the fertile parts would diſappear before thoſe which are uninhabitable. Two principal ſeas of ice, bordering

on each other, would at firſt fix our attention, the one to the north eaſt, and the other to the ſouth weſt. In the firſt we ſhould perceive the mountains linked together from St. Gothard, and the Grimſel, on to the Shreek-horn, like iſlands half deluged; on the other ſide, we ſhould diſtinguiſh, under an uniform livery, the formidable range of thoſe ſummits which raiſe themſelves from St. Bernard, and Mount-Velan, on to Mount Blanc. From thoſe two ſeas we ſhould ſee a multitude of arms branch off, which by meeting again, mingling together and uniting in different directions, bind the great maſſes to thoſe which are of leſs magnitude, and invade every territory which borders on theſe regions of froſt.

In this uniformity of whiteneſs, we ſhould remark a few points of a different colour, and which enchaſed in the ice,

ſeem

ſeem to have kept their ſummits free; theſe ſummits, without doubt, were heretofore covered; but their ſkeleton becoming in courſe of time incapable of retaining its cloathing, nature relieved their old age from the common ſervitude. A few black ſpots would indicate the places of cultivation and paſturage; but we ſhould ſeek in vain for thoſe imperceptible interſtices through which men have made paſſages; and the Valais, the greateſt interval which the ice has left, would appear nothing more than a narrow ribband, ſilvered by the Rhone.

If we look nearer, and obſerve its partial effects, this deluge of ice appears ſtill more formidable. We ſee it ſwallowing up in ſucceſsion theſe vaſt wrecks of every age, each portion of which bears evidence of the ravages of a century. Stretched out like the veil of oblivion

over

over theſe records of nature, it threatens with deſtruction every veſtige which time has left in its paſſage. Into whatever valley I penetrate, I ſee myſelf ſurrounded by ice; it menaces every communication; the moſt fruitful paſturages are threatened with its invaſions; and the ſhepherds, hemmed in between the ſpaces which remain, point out to us, with ſighs, thoſe which have been ſubdued. Like torrents, if it had their rapidity and inconſtancy; or lavas, if it did not bring in its train all the horrors of an eternal winter, the ice follows every declivity, accumulates in every depth, and preſents itſelf like an immenſe volume, the deſcent of which is determined by its weight. The inhabitant of the plain beholds with aſtoniſhment the invader protruding amidſt his harveſts, bid defiance even to the ſun by which they are ripened; the ſhepherd, ſeeking refuge at the

foot

foot of precipices, perceives it with terror, mounting the tops of the ſteep which ſeparated him from it, and deluging his abode with torrents and avalanches.

We muſt allow, however melancholy be the fact, that the ice is gaining on the whole ſurface of the high Alps, and is tending to inſulate the more temperate vallies which they incloſe. I will not ſay that their increaſe is any proof of the refrigeration of the globe; for the Glaciers have in general gone far beyond the colder region which has produced them, and ſubſiſt by means of their extent in a warmer zone; but the ſituation itſelf of theſe Glaciers, in places which could not have given them birth, is ſufficient to prove the extenſion of their original maſs*. Thoſe therefore who have gathered

* When we attribute to the increaſe alone of the upper regions of ſnow, the extenſion of which is obſerved

thered ripe fruits at the foot of the Glacier of Grindelwald, who with one hand have touched that of Montanvert, and with the other the corn ready for the ſickle, may have ſuppoſed that the country of fruits is that of ice, and that theſe maſſes have not deſcended from the region above. Beſides, what ſyſtem, or what particular obſervations, ſhall we oppoſe to atteſted facts and uniform traditions?—We muſt have had but little knowledge of theſe maſſes of ice, and been leſs converſant with the ſhepherds who dwell in

ſerved in the lower Glaciers, and regard the ſyſtem of the refrigeration of the earth as ill fitted to explain the abode of theſe maſſes in a temperate region, I am far from imagining that this manner of conſidering an inſulated fact is in contradiction to the moſt magnificent theory of the world which genius has ever produced. I think only that many phænomena relative to the Glaciers and their increaſe, may be explained without having recourſe to that theory.

their

their terrific neighbourhood, not to know how many Glaciers bear the name of the paſturages, which they have recently invaded *; how many paſſages were open, within a century, which are now for ever cloſed †; all theſe places are known; the regiſters of communities and of families have preſerved the memorial of theſe public calamities, and of the monuments by which they are atteſted ‡.

* The Glaciers of Roſenlaur, which are of the number of two at leaſt in the centre of Berne, the Blumliſs Gleſtſcher, in the ſame Canton, and many others in the Valais, and the Faucigny, &c.

† That of Letchſberg, between the Canton of Berne and the Valais; that of Montanvert, and of Bonhomme, in the valley of Aoſt; that of Grindelwald, of which Mr. Cox himſelf ſpeaks.

‡ In the pariſh of Grindelwald is ſeen the ſteeple of a hermitage ſituated heretofore in the paſſage which communicated with the Valais, but which the ice has now filled up.

And if to ſo much evidence it was neceſſary to add an higher authority in a caſe of this nature than any others which have hitherto been cited, I ſhould name the illuſtrious Haller, the Pliny of Switzerland; this learned man, then fourſcore years of age, has affirmed to me, that in his early youth he had ſeen from Berne, mountains ſtript of their ſnows during the greater part of the ſummer, which are now conſtantly covered *. It would

* M. de Haller, in 1777, has given this opinion on the ſubject in a preface which he compoſed for M. Wagner, the Editor of the fineſt collection extant, of Views in Switzerland. To the obſervation which I here juſt mentioned on the faith of this great man, I ſhall add another of the ſame kind, and which ſeems to be deciſive. Alſace, placed, with reſpect to the Alps, in the ſame direction as the city of Berne, ſees them alſo terminating the horizon to the ſouth. The ancient inhabitants of this province, who appear not to have known the name of theſe mountains, have given them one deſcriptive of their appearance, that of Hohe-Blauen—

would be a ſtrange abuſe of a few particular exceptions to oppoſe the immobility of the low Glaciers to theſe facts. For many ages, it is true, that ſome of theſe maſſes have not paſſed certain limits; and their inſenſible augmentations having always been followed by proportional diminutions, the extremes of theſe variations have been conſtantly reſtrained within a very narrow ſpace. Such is the Glacier of *Montanvert*, and

Blauen—the High Blues; it is by this name of *Blue Mountains* that the diſtant chain is called which bounds the ſight on the ſide of the Pacific Ocean and the Streights of Anian, in the continent of North America. This denomination of *High Blues*, which is ſtill found in the perſpective charts of Merian, is now fallen into diſuſe, becauſe it is no longer ſuitable to maſſes of ſplendid whiteneſs, neatly bordered with the azure of the ſky, and whoſe preſent appearance reſembles thoſe thick clouds which we ſee on a ſummer day ſkirting the horizon.

thoſe of *Grindelwald* and Furca *. But who is there that does not conceive that ramifications fallen many hundred fathom below their native region, amidſt vallies, where, from the heat of the ſun reflected in every direction, they ſuſtain a loſs which the upper ice, ſeconded by the cold of winter can ſcarcely repair? Who does not conceive, I ſay, that theſe ramifications have reached the end of their career, and have attained the boundary towards which all the other Glaciers tend, with more or leſs celerity, more or leſs ſucceſs. To ſuppoſe, therefore, that the other maſſes are ſubject to the viciſsitudes of theſe lower Glaciers,

* With reſpect to the Glacier of Grindelwald, its ſtate of reſt cannot be carried back to a very diſtant period, ſince the remembrance of the paſſage which it has filled up, and of the hermitage, with its ſteeple, ſtill appearing, is ſtill preſerved.

is to confound every idea. Theſe laſt, the inhabitants of our plains, and naturalized in thoſe variable regions, increaſe or decreaſe according to the capricious circumſtances which regulate every thing in the lower world. But in the higher regions, on the contrary, there is ſcarcely any difference of ſeaſons, few circumſtances and few accidents, the laws are ſimple, the tendency is fixed, and the increaſe depends invariably on the ſame cauſe which has preſerved the ſnows of the firſt winter, in ſpite of the heats of the firſt ſummer *.

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* When at theſe elevations the relation of the winter cold to the heats of ſummer has been found ſuch, that, at the end of a year, the ſum of ſnow fallen has ſomewhat exceeded that of the ſnow melted, the layer of ſnow which has reſiſted, could not but augment, becauſe each year has covered it again with a new ſtratum. The proportion of the accumulation ought alſo to be an increaſing ratio, becauſe the cold

The influence which the accumulation of the Glaciers of the high region has on the lower Glaciers, is ſeen in the progreſsive march of the latter. It is eaſy to conceive the cauſe; a maſs which weighs on an inclined plane, has a neceſſary tendency to deſcend; and this tendency is favoured in the Glaciers by the ſhock of torrents, which roll under their cavities, by the humidity which their maſs communicates to the ſoil which ſupports them; and finally by that innumerable multitude of hollows which undermine

which reigns at the ſummit of theſe mountains has neceſſarily augmented in the ratio of the annual thickneſs of the icy covering; ſo that the ſnow of the hundredth winter, ſupported by a ſoil already ice, has reſiſted with much more efficacy the heats of the following ſummer, than did thoſe which the firſt winter had thrown over a country till then naked, and ſubject only to the natural cold of the aerial zone by which it is ſurrounded.

their lower part, the effect of which is the diminution of the friction by diminiſhing the extent of the ſurfaces. It is thus that the increaſe, which in reality takes place only on the heights, feeds the ramifications, which being ſituated in the temperate regions, loſe much without gaining, and alſo gradually augments thoſe Glaciers that have not yet paſſed beyond the icy band of mountains, which they one day will paſs, to deſolate warmer countries. It is at Mareme, or Moraine, to that maſs of fragments of rocks which bounds the foot of the Glaciers, that we are indebted for the diſcovery of their progreſs. It was obſerved that this ridge was compoſed chiefly of pieces of granite, although the rocks around the Glacier were all calcareous, and it was eaſily to be ſuſpected that it muſt have been from the place of its origin that it has ſlowly tranſported theſe

wrecks: of this circumſtance the conviction was increaſed, when, on annually comparing the ſituation of its tranſverſal crevices with the bordering rocks, it is found that they imperceptibly advanced towards its extremity, and that a mark fixed above one of theſe crevices, had in a ſhort time overrun a conſiderable ſpace*.

This

* It is in the Glaciers of Faucigny that theſe obſervations have been made, where firs, ſtuck in the crevices of the ice, have ſerved as points of compariſon. One of the moſt deciſive experiments of this kind was made by M. Hennin, then French Miniſter at Geneva. It appears from all thoſe that have hitherto been made, that the progreſs of the ice is about fourteen feet every year. This progreſs is enormous; and it is eaſy to perceive that a tendency ſo deciſive would be productive of the moſt terrible effects, if the elevation was every where the ſame, and if different cauſes did not unite to counteract it; but it is not poſſible for this law to be univerſal; it muſt vary according to the deſcent and the direction of the vallies

This mode of increaſing and multiplying is common to all the Glaciers. There are lies of ice; and laſtly, according to the preſſure of the upper maſſes, and the direction of that preſſure. Beſides, the temperature of the region of the Glaciers modifies in ſome meaſure their progreſs; the ſoil more or leſs moiſtened by the melting of the ice, favours more or leſs its deſcent; ſo that the lower ramifications, loaded with the enormous weight of the ſnows of the higher region; ſituated in vallies, the deſcent of which being long and ſteep, and undermined by the torrents which collect beneath their cavities, muſt proceed much more rapidly than thoſe which inhabit the icy region; and this increaſe of rapidity, owing to their ſituation, is at the ſame time the means which nature has employed to repair the rapid loſſes to which they are ſubjected by their poſition, whilſt the ſlowneſs of the progreſs of the upper Glaciers prevents the prodigious increaſe which that poſition would admit. By theſe means, the maſs of the high region, finding its extenſion more circumſcribed on the ſide of the higher vallies, throws itſelf chiefly towards the lower outlets, where its extremities are ſometimes kept in a ſtate of diſſolution; ſo that the annual increaſe of the

are others that are merely accidental, or placed under peculiar circumstances. There

snows, however great, produces but an imperceptible increase in the Glaciers, and is sometimes annihilated by the caprices of the seasons.

Dr. Darwin, alarmed by the increase of the ice at the northern pole, and on the Swiss mountains, has pointed out an ingenious and beneficent mode of restoring the equilibrium of heat and cold, by employing the fleets of Europe, now busied in devastation, in the more innocent occupation of navigating ice islands from the neighbourhood of the pole, to cool the feverish climates of the track of the sun. As the continential armies are about to cease their work of death, the Doctor might also have proposed their being engaged in the removal of the Glaciers of St. Gothard, or Mont Blanc, had not M. Ramond, in his late observations on the Pyrenees, relieved us from any apprehension on account of the threatened progressive refrigeration of the globe from the increase of the ice on the Glaciers. After having descanted on the causes of the variety, the breadth, and elevation of the icy zone on the Alps, and the Pyrenees, and which is only three hundred fathom on the latter,

while

There are ſometimes maſſes which are ſituated in valleys extremely warm, and receive while it occupies a ſpace of thirteen hundred fathom on the former; (a wonderful difference, he adds, if we reflect that the moſt elevated ſummits of theſe mountains differ only ſix hundred fathom in their height, and only three degrees and a half in their latitude.) M. Ramond draws the following inductions, that from the height which the peaks of a chain of mountains attain, from its mean latitude, and the extent of its icy zone, two points being given, a third may be concluded; and that if in a known chain from a given mountain, two of theſe circumſtances are aſcertained, its height, the extent of its ſnows, or ice, and the place which it holds in the links of the chain, the third is a neceſſary conſequence.

M. Ramond, after having eſtabliſhed theſe rules, endeavours to prove that the Glaciers of the Alps, like thoſe of the Pyrenees, are not ſuſceptible of any durable increaſe beneath the icy zone. Let the Glacier roll its waves towards every outlet—vain menace!—it is like the ſtreamlet which ruſhes headlong from the lofty precipice, and is loſt in air. A

carpet

rceeive every year a reinforcement of auxiliary ſnow by the periodical fall of an avalanche, which forms itſelf regularly above them; ſome there are which left to their own weight on a very ſteep deſcent, have ſuddenly ruſhed on to the plains, above which they hung, and of which they have taken perpetual poſſeſſion. New Glaciers are ſometimes formed in hollows, that are leſs expoſed to the ſun, where the ſnow of winter is preſerved by the maſs which the heat

carpet of flowers forms a boundary to the ſea of ice which it cannot paſs; the harveſt of the huſbandman waves in ſafety on its banks, and the ſhepherd's hut need not fear its vicinity. The fury of the ocean is not more certainly reſtrained by the gently ſloping beach, where the foaming waters, that ſhake the rocks, and daſh againſt them like the ſlight canoe of the Indian, the ſtately veſſel loaded with legions and their thunder, die away on the lightly-ſhifting ſands, where they ſcarcely move the ſhell which they have thrown.

of ſummer looſens from the mountains above. It is this laſt phænomenon which the inhabitants of the Alps refer to when they advance it as an axiom, that a Glacier ſprings up wherever a portion of ſnow, however ſmall, has remained for the ſpace of a year.

The regular ſteps which I have juſt traced, the ſlow progreſs which draws imperceptibly to the foot of the Alps, the ſnow which their ſummits have collected, is at once the origin of the Glaciers, and the cauſe of their duration. If the ſnows invariably remained in their native region, and received no other increaſe than was ſufficient to repair the loſs occaſioned by evaporation, Switzerland would have no ice, and would no longer furniſh to the four ſeas which ſurround Europe, the fineſt rivers of this part of the world. If, on the contrary,

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thefe fame fnows fell fuddenly into the lower vallies, before they had taken the conſiſtence which they receive in the middle region, by the ſucceſsion of froſt and thaw, their diſſolution would be as rapid as their fall, and they would ſoon diſappear with the furious torrents they would have formed. It is not thus that nature acts. She has deſtined the moſt elevated country of Europe to be the waterer of its ſurface; but this watering, in order to prove a benefit, muſt be regular. The ſnows which accumulate in theſe lofty regions ought to be ſlow and uniform in melting. In order to melt, they muſt deſcend into a lower region of the atmoſphere; to melt ſlowly, they muſt be in great maſſes, and under a very ſolid form; they muſt take the conſiſtence of the hardeſt ice. Let us follow their ſingular transformation in its details.

The

The higheſt mountains, thoſe which are properly known under the name of *Glacieres*, are abſolutely inacceſsible; but the experienced beholder diſtinguiſhes in the brilliant whiteneſs of their covering, that dazzling which is the characteriſtic of ſnow. In reality, nothing falls from the clouds but ſnow, and that which adheres to theſe elevated points, never having undergone a real thaw, muſt neceſſarily remain in this form, or be covered only with a ſlight varniſh of imperfect ice, cauſed by the agglutination of the parts of the ſurface moſt expoſed to the ſun. It is this dazzling incruſtation which has deceived many obſervers, with reſpect to the nature of the clothing of theſe mountains. All the parts of this clothing very eaſily ſeparate from each other, and fall often into icy duſt at the bottom of the neighbouring and ſurrounding mountains. This is the firſt ſtate of

the

the upper ſnows, and the firſt ſtep which they take towards the inferior vallies.

Directly beneath theſe mountains, and in that elevated hollow, which receives at the ſame time their ſpoils, and the ſnows of the atmoſphere, the temperature is leſs icy, the ſun has ſome influence, and a few days of thaw ſuſpend the rigours of winter; we then find the ſnow more condenſed, more adheſive; it keeps from ſinking, but the trace of the foot is preſerved. This is the immenſe reſervoir of the Glaciers. An infinity of branches eſcape in every direction along the ſteep vallies towards the plain. Their ſnows elaborated in the hollow above, and become ſolid, are fitted to bear the trial which they undergo in a more temperate region. The ſecond ſtep is accompliſhed.

In

In this new abode, the ſnows are expoſed to longer thaws, but the froſts are ſcarcely leſs ſharp; their maſſes are more thoroughly penetrated with the water which is produced by the diſſolution of ſome of its parts; but when it is duly moiſtened, the cold ſeizes, and transforms it into a kind of half ice, which already ſeems tranſparent; this is the origin of the Glaciers.

The work is not yet finiſhed, but it goes on rapidly to perfection. Every fathom of deſcent towards the lower region gives the ice a greater degree of hardneſs and tranſparency, and the Glacier, undergoing a thorough transformation preſerves nothing that bears a reſemblance of its original.

If, in the mean time, we caſt an attentive look over the part where the trans-

formation is moſt perfect, namely, at the foot of the Glacier, we ſhall perceive that that is not abſolutely homogeneous, but compoſed of two very different kinds of ice. That which forms the lower ſtratum being more compact and more tranſparent, is of an hardneſs ſurpaſsing that of our moſt perfect ice; it is alſo like it in other reſpects, terminated by plane ſurfaces; but that which forms itſelf into irregular rocks, the outward ſurface of which is rugged, being more white and light, as well as leſs ſolid, is eaſily divided into globular fragments, which are themſelves only an aggregation of ſimilar parts. The lower bed of ice is therefore the produce of water, regularly cryſtallized, whilſt the other is nothing more than ſnow, the particles of which are agglutinated by the ſucceſsion of thaws and froſts. This is, I believe, the cauſe of that phæno-menon.

The ſnow, as it falls to the ground, is a maſs of little regular cryſtals, in the form of very light and ſcooped out ſtars, the ſix rays of which being flat, pointed, and diſtant ſixty degrees from each other, preſent the form of the cryſtallization of water. Let us imagine the effect which the heat muſt neceſſarily have on their accumulated flakes, we ſhall find that the moſt unconnected parts are thoſe which yield the ſooneſt, the points will drop off, a little ſpherical nucleus is all that remains of each ſtar, and the whole maſs will ſink by the union of theſe globules. It is in this ſtate that thoſe ſnows are every where found which have undergone a firſt thaw; they then become leſs porous, and more tranſparent. But if this thaw be ſucceeded by froſt, the little ſphericle icicles cling together, and form an icy maſs, which breaks at each ſinuous interſtice, which the elementary globules leave between them.

Such is the ice which compoſes the upper ſtratum of the Glaciers. The lower ſtratum is formed by the congelation of the waters, which have filtered through the ſnow; it takes the figure of perfect ice; its maſs is a ſeries of flat and uniformly inclined planes; it is hard, tranſparent, and breaks into ſharp fragments*.

It is not, as is commonly believed, during the heats of ſummer, that theſe tranſformations take place; they are only undergoing

* Among theſe lower ſtrata of ice, ſome parts are found of a deeper blue, much harder, heavier, and more indiſſoluble, than the moſt ſolid ice we know of. Theſe properties ariſe from their antiquity, and the continual ſucceſsion of diſſolution and congelation which they undergo. Their parts become gradually more connected; they have expelled or diſſolved all the particles of heterogeneous air, which diſturbed their tranſparency, or diminiſhed their adheſion; remaining therefore unmixed with any foreign matter, they have

acquired

dergoing preparation. The ſnow is ſaturated with water; but the cold of the night is not ſufficiently piercing to finiſh the work; it penetrates but a little way; the thaw is but ſlightly reſtrained; it is the winter alone which fixes it, and freezes what the ſummer has diſſolved. Thence it happens, that during the temperate ſeaſon a prodigious quantity of water eſcapes congelation; makes its way on every ſide through the maſs of ſnows; its weight determines it towards the extre-

acquired that blue colour which belongs to air and water, when they form a volume, and hold no other fluid in ſuſpenſion. M. Plyffer has made ſeveral experiments on this ice which I have not yet repeated.—He aſſerts, that it retains its colour to its ſmalleſt fragments. He has alſo remarked its property of reſiſting heat. I have made the ſame obſervation, and have admired the wiſdom of nature, which has given this ice hardneſs, and indiſſolubility, fitted to make it ſupport the abode of the warm vallies into which it deſcends.

mities; there it finds either reſervoirs, which diſtribute it into the bowels of mountains to feed the ſprings, or declivities down which it ruſhes, dragging along a part of the ſnow drowned in it, and forcing a channel to empty itſelf into the plains. In vain are theſe pervious ſnows afterwards changed into ice; they preſerve the form which has been impreſſed on them; the torrent ſeizing on its bed, and endued with an impetuoſity proportioned to the rapidity of its deſcent, acquires the power of overcoming the tranſitory obſtacles which accident might bring in its way. The glacier, in its progreſs, is forced to preſerve for it an outlet which it would otherwiſe find the means of opening for itſelf, or rather let me ſay, that the glacier is formed by its current; its deſcent is favoured by the ſhock, and the rapidity of its waters; the torrent traces out the places which it is to occupy,

and

and becomes the pioneer that prepares deſerts for its reception.

Whilſt nature is making this external expenditure, to fertilize our plains burnt up by the heats of ſummer, ſhe looks forward to winter to repleniſh her reſervoirs; it is in hollows deprived, to all appearance, of outlet, that ſhe accumulates the waters, which a thouſand unknown pipes convey into interior cavities, whence they iſſue under the form of ſprings, which not only have reſiſted the winter cold, but have often acquired a heat foreign to their nature, the cauſe of which is demonſtrated by the numerous hot ſprings we find in Switzerland. The ſame ſubterraneous ſources from which they flow, thoſe ſemi-volcanoes kept up by the flow and gradual fermentation of the vaſt magazines of minerals heaped up in the boſom of the Alps, are the origin alſo

of thoſe accidental cavities, which are dug under the glaciers already formed, and of that verdure which we are ſometimes ſurpriſed to find in places which ought to be covered with eternal ſnows; laſtly, we are indebted to them for a great number of rivulets, kept up by the melting of the ice during the ſharpeſt cold of winter, and which ſeizing on the bed of the torrents, ſweep their courſe, and keep their outlets free. It is to theſe receptacles of heat, and by the partial ſinkings which they occaſion in the maſs of the glaciers, that we muſt attribute a part of the great crevices which croſs them in every direction, and which receiving the waters of the upper ſurface, carry them into the lower canals. It is alſo to the vaults made by their hot exhalations under the glaciers, that we might attribute the formation of bridges of ice, interior lakes, and a thouſand other accidents, which, becauſe they are

accidents, can have no conſtant cauſe, and ought not therefore to be ranged in the claſs of phænomena ariſing from the heat peculiar to the earth. This heat is an uniform and univerſal cauſe, and therefore can have only uniform and univerſal effects.

If this heat acted only on the lower part of the glaciers, it would act always regularly, their maſs would ſink every where in the ſame proportion, the waters which ſhould proceed from their melting would give equal moiſture to all the countries they covered; they would run off indifferently from all parts of the ice which touch the ground, and would reunite only after their fall. There would be no partial and extraordinary cavities, no ſeparate reſervoirs; none of thoſe privileged places which rid themſelves of their ſnows, without owing it to the beam of

the

the ſun, or their relative poſition to the neighbouring heights.

The hollows which have been found at the feet of the glaciers, and which ſerve as outlets to the torrents, have been produced as evidences of the melting of the under ſtrata of the ſnow; but as theſe hollows anſwer preciſely to the deepeſt part of the vallies, occupied by the glacier, that is to ſay, at the very place where the waters, left to their own weight and fluidity, unite together, when no obſtacle occurs to prevent their tendency, and being likewiſe only the mouth of a channel which pierces the glacier through its whole length, they prove nothing, except the little reſiſtance which the drenched ſnows have made to the draining of the waters which proceeded from their thaw, at a period when the maſs had not yet acquired its icy form. In fact, it is

not,

not, in the bottom of thoſe hollows, as ſome ſuppoſe, who have ſeen only the extremities of the glaciers, that the torrents take their riſe. Both the *Lutſchenis*, and the torrent that ſwells the Rhone, near its ſource, do not belong to the maſſes of ice in the *Grendelwald*, *Lauterbrunnen*, and the *Furca*; their ſources are in the upper ſnows, but they owe to the channel which receives them, and which conveys them to the plains, after having for a long time concealed them from ſight, thoſe auxiliary waters which its numerous crevices bring them from all parts of the glacier; ſo that the increaſe of the torrent ariſes as much from the upper ſurface as from the lower part.—We might even conclude, that the produce of the external thaw is not inconſiderable, if we obſerve that the furrows, by which it is hollowed, as well as its briſtled points, are the work of the currents which

are

are formed in the firſt days of ſpring; and which would continue running, if the cavities, by giving way ſoon after, did not abſorb them as they ariſe, and conduct them into the lower channel.

After having deſcribed the general forms which the glaciers owe to their origin, I ſhall not ſtop to paint the infinite varieties which diſtinguiſh them; they are as numerous as the places where they are ſituated, and the circumſtances by which they are attended.

In this ſpot, a band of ice, adhering to a precipice, drops off in proportion as the ſun communicates warmth to its ſupporter, and preſents itſelf, ſeen ſideways, like a tranſparent needle, ſo extremely elevated, that its equilibrium appears a miracle.—On another ſide, a maſs of ice, on the edge of a precipice, leans like a penthouſe

over

over the depth, and turns itſelf into a half circle. Sometimes this penthouſe drops off from its weight, and leaves a perpendicular wall of ice, of terrific height.—Between mountains, at little diſtance from each other, the glacier is a narrow ſtreight; further on, it is an immenſe ſea, overlooked only by a few points, half ſwallowed up. In the upper regions, the ſea is calm, and furrowed only by vaſt waves; if it eſcapes along a narrow valley, it is a furious torrent, where one wave follows ruſhing on another. Every thing has the ſemblance of motion and noiſe; but all around is ſtillneſs and peace.

I leave, without reluctance, particular deſcriptions of objects, and frigid details, to writers who make a point of explaining every thing; but I regret that I have not been able to bring back from this new world the power of painting to the imagination,

gination, as it was pictured before my eyes; to retrace the fentiments with which it inſpired me, and the ideas to which it gave birth. Let no one judge of its ſolitudes by the ſolitudes of our plains. Here below, every thing lives, ſenſation pervades the whole. In the moſt diſtant retreat, in deſerts where I do not find the footſteps of man, I find a family of birds, which is the emblem of our own; a republic of inſects, which recalls the idea of our nations; their induſtry, their relations and antipathies. The waving of a tree, the ſhaking of a ſhrub, the rapid courſe, or murmuring flow of a rivulet, every thing brings me back to the ſentiment of exiſtence, by giving me the idea of motion, the moſt ſoothing of all ideas, becauſe it is the moſt remote from annihilation. But how different the immenſe deſerts of the Alps! One uniform carpet covers their icy laby-

rinths,

rinths, from the proudeſt ſummits to the moſt unſearchable abyſſes; it is the livery of the eternal winters of the pole, a winding ſheet which enwraps the expiring earth.

An eternal ſilence reigns over this ſecluded region. If at remote diſtances an avalanche falls amidſt its precipices; if a rock rolls over its ice, the noiſe will be inſulated; no living creature anſwers it by a cry of terror, no timid birds fly away affrighted; the winding labyrinths of theſe mountains, carpeted with ſnow, receive, in ſilence, the ſound, which is repeated by no echo. Who, but the obſerver of nature, would ſuſpect that this vaſt tomb contains its ſecret laboratory, and that like the careful monarch who, in the tranquil retirement of his palace, dwells with anxiety on the happineſs of his people, the mother of the world prepares in this

abode,

abode, defended by ſuch terrible avenues, the flowers with which ſhe is to deck our plains.

The waſte made by the icy maſs, to feed its lower branches, and the prodigious loſs occaſioned by evaporation, would not be ſufficient to counterbalance the continual increaſe which it receives, if the upper ſnows did not deſcend into the region where they are to be diſſolved, although with that ſlowneſs which characteriſes their regular progreſs, and under the ſolid form which they acquire by this gradual deſcent, ſo that in a ſhort ſpace the heights being overloaded with their weight, and not having the faculty of retaining them on their ſteep declivities, precipitate them, under the form of *lavanges*, into regions where the rays of the ſun have more active force.

Having

Having by this means prematurely reached the limit to which they all tend, they are expoſed, without ſhelter, to the action of the heat, and melt with a celerity which ſoon re-eſtabliſhes the balance between the loſs and the increaſe. Different cauſes contribute to favour the removal of theſe maſſes of ſnow, and the inhabitants of the country give different names to this phænomenon, according to their cauſes, and to the forms which it receives from them. It is on this account they are called lavanges of cold, lavanges of heat, lavanges of wind, and lavanges of duſt*.

A maſs

* The word *lavange* is derived from the German term *lavine*, by which the inhabitants of the Swiſs Alps diſtinguiſh this phænomenon. That of *Avalanche*, which expreſſes the ſame thing, and which is more in uſe in the *Romanſh* country, has for its etymology the old word *avaler*, to deſcend, which is no longer un-

A maſs of ſnow, which its own weight alone detaches from the heights, on the ſlope of which it was ſuſpended, is what is called a lavange of cold, becauſe it is generally in winter that the accumulation of ſnow determines its deſcent. The fall is always accompanied by a dreadful craſh, and nothing can reſiſt its courſe. Habitations, whole villages are buried under it; foreſts are levelled with the ground; rocks bend before the ſhock, and are dragged on with the current. The air, agitated by the precipitation of this enormous maſs, carries the devaſtation into places which the ſnows cannot reach; a hurricane is leſs violent in its effects, and ſometimes the traveller, who journeys out of the reach of the lavange, has been thrown down headlong, or ſtifled by this

derſtood in this ſenſe; or rather from the adverb a-val, from the Monkiſh Latin *ad vallem*, which is the origin of the word.

impetuous

impetuous blaſt, loaded with particles of ice.

The lavange of *heat* or *duſt* differs but little from the preceding. It has the ſame origin, but is leſs compact; it falls leſs in a maſs, and by dividing itſelf, it covers a greater extent of ground; the ſnow which compoſes it is an icy powder, extremely fine and light. During the hot days of ſummer, we frequently hear a noiſe like that of thunder, or of a torrent which throws itſelf from a conſiderable height on a ſurface of rock; it is one of theſe diſtant lavanges, which falls from rock to rock, under the form of a caſcade of water raiſed into foam. A hot wind, which blows from the ſouthern region, and which the inhabitants of the Swiſs Alps call *Foen*, the ſame which from the firſt days of the month of March changes at once the temperature of the air in the

neighbouring countries, which in one day enamels the meadows with violets, and gives him who breathes it the firſt feelings of ſpring; the Sirocco of the Italians ſweeps in a ſhort time the ſummit of the Alps. At that period lavanges follow one another without intermiſsion, the torrents ruſh from every glacier; and the rivers ſuddenly ſwelled, overflow their banks. When the wind riſes, it finds a maſs of icy air above the Alps, which oppoſes its paſſage, and with which it ſtruggles, but it is only at the end of two days that it has power to take its place, and the inhabitants of the northern plains of Switzerland feel, for two days, a cold wind which they know precedes the burning wind they ſhall feel on the third day*. The

* This takes place in Suabia and Alſace, though in a much leſs ſenſible manner. No where elſe is felt this ſudden change of ſeaſon, which has ſomething ma-

gical

The lavange of *wind* is, of the number of phænomena of this kind, that which appertains moſt to the high mountains of the northerly parts of the globe. It is a ſhifting of ſnows, occaſioned during the winter, by violent hurricanes. Theſe ſnows, which the cold has preſerved in their ſtate of lightneſs, are carried away by the winds, and tranſported to a great diſtance.

The aſpect of the region, where theſe winds exerciſe their fury, is changed in an inſtant; woe to thoſe who are then wandering on their heights! the paths which their footſteps have traced, diſappear;

gical in it, and which makes ſo delicious an impreſſion on every being; the ſucceſſion is ſlow and gradual, and the oppoſite temperature coming into contact by ſhades ſcarcely perceptible, give nature a monotonous progreſs, which affects the mind only with vague ſenſations.

the marks ſet up at regular diſtances to point out the direction of the roads are thrown to the ground; and if the unhappy traveller is not buried under this furious ſea, he throws his eyes with deſpair over an immenſe ocean, with nothing to direct his ſteps, and which offers no other inequalities than the vaſt waves, the moving ſurface of which has been ploughed by the winds. It is thus that nature, in her general views, overlooks partial evils. No ſacrifice is too great, when the preſervation of her original plan is concerned; and while ſhe is careful to conceal her unchangeableneſs under an inexhauſtible variety of forms, of what importance is it that one of her ſteps occaſions the removal, or annihilation of any of thoſe beings, which ſhe ſcatters with ſo much profuſion over the ſurface of the globe.

I ſhall

I ſhall confine to this rapid outline, the picture of the objects which my abode, amidſt the Alps has offered me.

Placed in the centre of the richeſt and moſt temperate part of the globe, theſe mountains bring us in contact with the moſt ſavage and moſt frozen regions of the earth. If we take a view of them relatively to their conſtituent parts, we ſhall find a reſpectable remnant of the firſt ſketch of our planet, an immoveable chain of ſimple rocks, which have kept their ſeat amidſt the revolutions of the earth, and which have witneſſed around them the birth and decay of thoſe fortuitous and tumultuous aggregations, thoſe flow maſſes, the ſecondary mountains, children of the caprices of nature, and fleeting as theſe caprices. Within their boſom they conceal virgin foſſils, as antient as themſelves, and cryſtals, the faithful companions of gla-

ciers. It is only at their feet that we ſee thoſe calcareous, or argillaceous inveſtments, the ſtrata of which contain wrecks of beings which live on the ſurface of the earth, or in the gulphs of the ſea; thoſe ſinuous hills, that wind around their baſis, which cover the primitive vallies with a foreign ſoil, the different ſtates of which bear evidence to the lapſes of ages, from which the primordial mountains have received little injury, and of which they preſerve ſcarcely any traces.

If we conſider the height of theſe mountains, various other phænomena preſent themſelves to our minds. The height of thirty fathoms raiſes you a degree above the equator, and the ſame variations of temperature which local circumſtances, ſuch as the vicinity or the diſtance of ſeas, the extent or abſence of foreſts, make in the temperature of climates,

in a gradual progreſs towards the pole, are found as you paſs through the different ſucceſsive ſtrata of the atmoſphere, repreſented by the irregularities which are cauſed by the expoſure of mountains, with reſpect to the ſun, the reflection of neighbouring ſurfaces, and the diſtance of the ice, in the regular diminution of the heat. In a greater elevation, ſuch irregularities diminiſh as thoſe local circumſtances have leſs influence nearer the poles. At twelve or thirteen hundred fathoms height, you are at the eightieth degree of latitude, and in a walk of a few hours you have felt the influence of all the ſeaſons; ſeen the production of every climate; ran through the whole ſcale of vegetation, and compared the birds of Italy with thoſe of northern lakes and continents*.

To

* A naturaliſt of Rome, Mr. Springlein, has formed, with conſiderable taſte and expence, a complete collection

To ſum up all, you have paſſed the bounds of the moſt frozen habitable zone. At ſeventy-five degrees you meet with vaſt foreſts; but they are not to be found in the Alps at the height of eleven hundred fathoms. Here the cold is attended with a ſhortneſs of the column of air; there it is maintained by the obliquity of the ſun's rays. It appears that vegetable life yields ſooneſt to the impreſsion of the firſt of theſe circumſtances, and we ſhould find ourſelves in the moſt horrid of all regions, if a wonderfully ſerene ſky, if the pureſt ſplendour of the ſun did not take place of the eternal fogs which cover the polar continent, and the pale glimmering which trickles along its deſolate froſts.

lection of the birds of the Alps, which conſiſts of about five hundred ſpecimens. It contains the ſpecies peculiar to every climate from the ſouth of Italy to the north of America.

Let

Let no one imagine that exiſtence is for a moment painful in the midſt of theſe deſerts. A temperature, ſuch as the preſence of a cloudleſs ſun, is always an enjoyment, notwithſtanding the cold of the atmoſphere; an air which is reſpirable at the higheſt degree, notwithſtanding its rarefaction; waters which have preſerved the purity they have acquired, when raiſed to the clouds, becauſe in falling back on the earth they have not croſſed the peſtilential vapours which hover over our plains; thoſe waters which, offering to the parched traveller no perfidious beverage, engage him to quench his burning thirſt without apprehenſion of the fatal effects ariſing from their coolneſs*; theſe things are

* This quality of the waters which proceed from a glacier is proved, not only by the experience of all thoſe who have made uſe of it, but ſtill more by the opinions of the phyſicians of Switzerland. I am not well

are what firſt ſtrike the ſenſes. The moſt exceſsive fatigue vaniſhes in an inſtant; ſtrength is renewed; courage and tranquillity take place of uneaſineſs; in a word, the body and mind undergo a tranſformation which extends and multiplies all their faculties. However wonderful what I have advanced may appear, I ſhall not want evidences of its truth, and ſhall only find thoſe incredulous, who have never aſcended above the plain. I call theſe to witneſs, who have ſcaled ſome of

well acquainted with the explanation they give of this phænomenon; but for my own part, having often drank of it I ſhould be tempted to think that this innocence is owing leſs to their quality, than to the diſpoſition of the body, which finding a very rarefied atmoſphere in the heights, does not receive from the friction of its own parts a degree of heat comparable to that of which it is ſuſceptible in our plains. Beſides, in theſe regions we are never at reſt, we are ever in activity, and the cooling being only momentary, cannot ſuſpend the perſpiration.

the

the heights of the globe; is there a ſingle perſon who did not find himſelf regenerated; who did not feel with ſurpriſe, that he had left at the feet of the mountains, his weakneſs, his infirmities, his cares, his troubles, in a word, the weaker part of his being, and the ulcerated portion of his heart? Who among them but will acknowledge that at no moment of his life, in the age even of his warmeſt paſſions, in the midſt of circumſtances which have given the greateſt force to his imagination, he has never felt himſelf ſo diſpoſed to that kind of enthuſiaſm which kindles great ideas!

In fine, who, in beholding from that ſtation the immenſity of the celeſtial ſpheres, and the nothingneſs of our planet, can think without ſome feeling of contempt on what we call great, or of pity on what we

deem

deem important? Let not this appear wonderful; every thing in theſe regions is of coloſſal magnitude: the eye loſt in the immenſe chaos of mountains which it ſurveys, thinks it beholds an univerſe, and this univerſe is but a point when it contemplates the azure ſpace in which we wander. Nothing diſtracts or miſleads the mind employed on theſe ſublime objects. The ſilence of theſe deſerts, where nothing breathes, or moves, beyond the tumult of the habitable world; the view of theſe profound abyſſes; of valleys which thoſe immoveable cliffs have held alternately defert and cultivated, peopled to-day, to-morrow deſolated, the aſylum of ſo many alternately happy and miſerable mortals, the theatre of ſo many changes; every thing concurs to make our meditations more profound; to give them that melancholy hue, that ſublime

character

character which they acquire, when the ſoul, taking that flight which makes it contemporary with every age, and co-exiſtent with all beings, hovers over the abyſs of time. In vain would reaſon ſtrive to count by years. The ſolidity of theſe enormous maſſes, oppoſed to the accumulation of their ruins, ſtartles and confounds all its calculations. Imagination ſeizes the reins which Reaſon drops, and in that long ſucceſsion of periods, catches a glimpſe of the image of eternity, which ſhe hails with religious terror. How has every thing vaniſhed, which occupies, enchants, and aſtoniſhes us here below, when we compare it with the objects of glory that are ſet before us! Thus, our moſt extended ideas, and our moſt elevated and noble ſentiments have their origin in the wanderings of the imagination; but let us forgive its chimeras, for what would there be great

in

in our conceptions, or glorious in our actions, if finite was not, through its illusions, continually changed into infinite, ſpace into immenſity, time into eternity, and fading laurels into immortal crowns!

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THE END

BSB Bayerische StaatsBibliothek
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Williams, Helen Maria, 1762-1827

A tour in Switzerland; or, A view of the present state of the gavernments and manners of those cantons with comparitive sketches of the present state of Paris
Bd.: 2. - 2. ed. - 1798. - VIII, 352 S.

London 1798

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